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2013 Legislative Session Opening Day

January 9th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Congratulations Mr. Speaker.

Congratulations Delegates.

Greetings fellow Marylanders:

We begin the 2013 session in the strongest position in years. What we have given to one another, over these last six years in the face of all the economic adversity we have faced, was not denial. It was not simply hope. It was belief.

A belief that we are stronger than the challenges that we face. A belief that we're all in this together. A belief that with better choices we can create jobs, expand opportunity, and move our State forward.

And with better choices that's exactly what we've done:

Better choices that are creating and recovering jobs and putting Marylanders back to work.

Better choices that have put us on the verge of knocking out our inherited structural deficit and allowed us to protect our Triple A Bond Rating – one of only 8 in the nation certified to a state by all three rating agencies.

Better choices that have allowed us to build America's #1 best public school system and to do more than any other state to keep down the cost of college tuition.

Better choices that have given law enforcement new tools so that together we could drive down violent crime and homicides to three decade lows.

Better choices that are restoring the health of our Bay and protecting the health of moms, dads, and children in every part of our State.

Progress is a choice. Job creation is a choice. Whether we will continue to move forward in this session over the next three months – this too is a choice. And that's why in the days, weeks and months ahead I'll ask for your help on legislation that

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creates jobs, expands opportunity and protects our quality of life.

Thank you all very much.



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Tags: [2013 Legislative Session](#), [choices](#), [general assembly](#), [house of delegates](#), [Moving Maryland Forward](#)

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Education Week Announcement: #1 Schools in the Nation

January 10th, 2013

Severna Park, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, it's great to be here today with all of you! I hope you're excited too, and not just because you're getting out of class right now.

Thanks to Principal Pickens, Speaker Busch, and Betty Weller for sharing our belief that, with better choices, we can create jobs, expand opportunity, and move our State forward.

And to all of our educators here today, let me thank you for the work that you do on behalf of public education, which is the single most important ingredient in job creation and opportunity.

Public Education Announcement

Today is a good day, because we're here to announce that, with better choices, we have built what Education Week magazine says is the #1 best public school system in America for the 5th year in a row.

We are #1 because of each and every one of you. We are #1 because of the students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, advocates, elected representatives,... and, yes, the citizens of our State,... who understand that the investments we make in education are investments in the future we all share.

From the earliest days of our Administration, job creation – and it's primary ingredient, education – have topped our agenda. Every year of this Administration, even during the toughest of times, we have invested to make this a reality.

To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments. And so in Maryland, even as we've cut – and the record will show we've made more cuts to state spending than any previous administration – and even as we knocked out Maryland's structural deficit, we've chosen to make targeted investments in education.

Releases

In fact, the modern investments we've chosen to make in public education – even at the height of the Bush recession – are the largest investments we've ever made together in public education.

We cannot cut our way to prosperity – we must grow our economy. To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments – educating, innovating, and rebuilding for our children's future.

There are some challenges so large that we can only tackle them together,... creating jobs, spurring innovation, expanding opportunity, improving public education and public safety, and rebuilding a 21st century transportation system. These things won't happen by themselves,... and other countries won't do them for us.

We have to work together. We have to make our government work more efficiently and more effectively. And so, our work to give you the best public education – not just the best in the country, but the best in the world – continues.

Conclusion

Before I turn it over, I want to share with you something my parents told me, growing up. It's something I hope you'll remember as you start the new school year.

Love God, love your family, and love your country.

Your education will enable you to do the right things for our country – no matter what you want to be when you grow up. Most importantly, you're going to bear that most important title of all, and that is American citizen. We love you guys, we're counting on you.

Now, I'd like to introduce our Speaker of the House, Michael Busch to say a few words.



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Tags: [children](#), [education week](#), [future](#), [number 1 schools](#), [students](#), [teachers](#)

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Johns Hopkins University Summit on Reducing Gun Violence in America

January 14th, 2013

Baltimore, MD

President Daniels, thank you very much. And thank you for the amazing work that goes on here at Johns Hopkins, including here at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. It's always a great honor to be here, especially to be the warm-up act for Mayor Bloomberg, a proud alumnus. Very few have done quite so much for Johns Hopkins as Mayor Bloomberg. And Mayor Michael Bloomberg has also been a great friend to the City of Baltimore. We were here together just this past April, in fact, to dedicate the Charlotte R. Bloomberg Children's Center – named in honor of his mother. It is, I think, one of the most handsome new buildings in Baltimore.

A great American once said,... *"No nation whose citizens fear to walk their own streets is healthy."*

And there is a sickness in our country. That sickness is gun violence. It's fitting, we're here at the Bloomberg School because gun violence is a public health issue. It's about the health of our cities and towns. It's about the health of our neighborhoods. It's about the health of our economy. The health of our schools, and our schools children, and our communities. The health of our neighbors.

Mayor Bloomberg is one of the most effective, results-oriented mayors ever to serve New York, or dare I say any city. Creating jobs,... expanding opportunity,... improving city schools,... launching America's largest and most innovative affordable housing initiative,... and fighting crime.

The people of New York have shown the people of Baltimore that it is possible to make a safer tomorrow. That we do not have to resign ourselves to the circumstances and the way things have always been,... or what we've never been able to do in the past. And that, in fact, we can save lives. And each life is precious. Each life is important. And if you save just one life, it is as if you have saved the entire world.

The people of America also recognize something else that's very important to Mike Bloomberg, and that is that he is not primarily partisan. He is primarily about pulling people together to do practical things that actually work. Which is also the very thing

Releases

that it takes to be an effective mayor. There is no Democratic or Republican way to fix a pothole, is there? Or any Democratic or Republican way to get the alleys clean, or get the trash picked up. You see a problem. You bring people together. You fix it, and you then see measurable results. And in this case, the measurable results that we will see are lives that will be saved.

This has been Mayor Bloomberg's driving argument when it comes to preventing gun violence. Politically speaking, this is certainly not an easy issue for many elected figures. But the Mayor courageously chose to step up again and again, bringing other like-minded mayors together, including our own courageous mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. And he did so consistently. And his leadership really matters now, because the tragedies that have happened across our country – in Colorado, in Wisconsin, and in Connecticut, ... there is a wider envelope for accomplishing the art of the possible; for putting in place common sense things that can prevent the sort of gun violence that has taken too many lives from us.

All of us are here today because we agree that this issue is of paramount public safety importance. And there is no more important responsibility that any government has than protecting and safeguarding the public safety of its citizens.

Over a ten year period of time, two of the three major cities in America that have achieved the biggest reductions in driving down violent crime have been New York, and also just behind New York, has been Baltimore. New York was number two over a ten year period, Baltimore was number three.

So, preventing violent crime, ... locking up the bad guys, keeping assault weapons from falling into the hands of disturbed people who are a danger to others – these are not barometric pressures. These are not weather forces. These are not conditions brought about by the Gulf Stream. These are human problems, and so too are their solutions.

Mayor, you will be pleased to hear that in Maryland, we are taking on this issue again in this year's legislative session. And I do believe that this year, we will have success. Later this week we'll be introducing a comprehensive legislative package that looks, not only at the weapons and the licensing of weapons, and background checks, but also at schools – we're joined here by Lillian Lowery, our Superintendent of Public Schools. We'll also be looking at mental health – we're joined here by Josh Sharfstein, of Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Also joined by Marcus Brown, our Superintendent of State Police. So, this will be a comprehensive legislative package to prevent gun violence. And it addresses not only the guns, but also mental health and school safety.

It will ban military-style assault weapons that have no place on the streets of Baltimore or in any other neighborhood in our State. And it will also limit the size of magazines to make it harder for criminals to gun down in succession police officers or school children.

Secondly, it will have a common-sense licensing requirements for handguns that respect the traditions of hunters and sportsmen and women.

Third, it will contain real and substantive reforms to improve mental health services. Reforms like more timely data-sharing, ... investments in better treatment, ... and the

creation of a new Center for Excellence on Early Intervention for Serious Mental Illness, so that we're able to utilize more effective early intervention strategies.

And finally, it will invest in our schools to improve the safety of their facilities. So many of us that have visited our schools know that the primary mission, being the education mission, that there is a wide spectrum when it comes to the safeguards in place – simple things like the doors being locked, and visitors being checked in, and the like. So we will creating a fund within our capital schools budget – we are one of only about a dozen states to invest in school construction – and that fund will help us to bring schools up to higher standards. We will also be creating a Maryland Center for School Safety that will bring together law enforcement with school officials so that we have some better advice for school officials on the things we can do to better safeguard our campuses.

Conclusion, as I get to introduce our very honorable and accomplished guest. Neither Mayor Bloomberg nor any of us in Maryland are seeking to ban all guns. At the same time, we know that it makes absolutely no sense, when you look at the level of carnage on our streets from guns, to blame every factor *but* guns.

If we're going to have a comprehensive approach, we'll then let's think comprehensively. Including comprehensively looking at the licensing requirements for guns. We need a comprehensive approach that puts the focus on the practical, common sense things that we can do together to save lives. Perhaps there is no way to completely prevent the next Newtown tragedy. But then again, perhaps there is. None of us can predict the future. None of us can properly assess the value of preventive programs that keep another tragedy from happening. And yet, we know every life is valuable. But that cannot be an excuse that keeps us from doing common sense things.

This isn't about ideology – it's about human dignity. The dignity of every individual life. The dignity of every one of those little kids. The dignity of every child and every person in the United States of America.

So, it is with great honor that I introduce to you a man of effectiveness, a man of great political courage — Mayor Michael Bloomberg, of the great City of New York.



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Tags: [driving down crime](#), [families](#), [guns](#), [safety](#), [violence](#)

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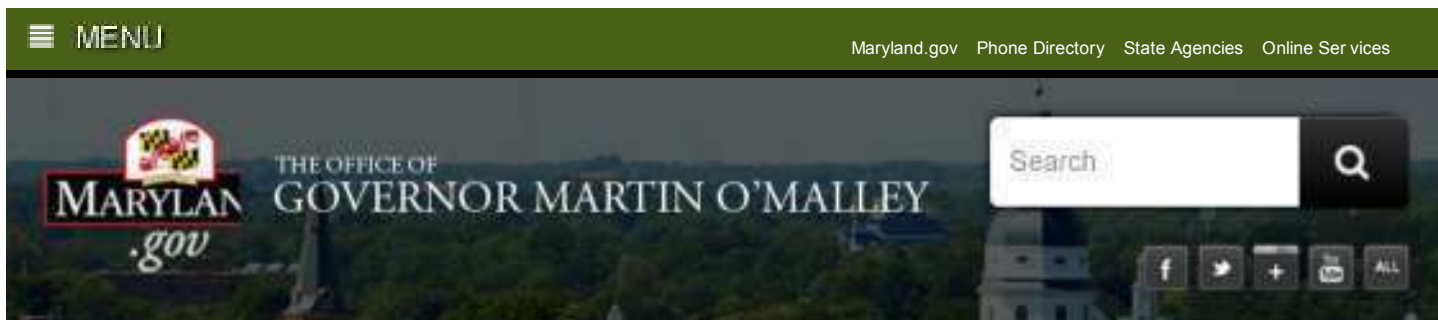
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Repealing Capital Punishment in Maryland

January 15th, 2013

Thank you very much. It's wonderful to be here with all of you. Lt. Governor, thank you for those heartfelt and very principled remarks. And thank you all for stepping up and for being here on this issue. County Executive Ike Leggett, it's good to see you. County Executive Rushern Baker, Chairman Frosh, so many that are here, ... Senator Gladden, Delegate Rosenberg.

It would seem to me that, especially in tough times, if there is something that we're doing through our government that is expensive, and does not work, then we should stop doing it.

The death penalty is expensive and it does not work. And for that reason alone, I believe we should stop doing it.

So this week, once again, I will be filing legislation to repeal the death penalty in Maryland. And I want to share with you how I come to this issue. I want to share with you my reasons for doing this once again. And I thank all of the delegates, and senators, ... Lt. Governor, and county executives for being here and being supportive of this repeal of the death penalty in Maryland.

Investing In Strategies that Work

Anyone who has ever looked in the eyes of a young boy or a girl, ... or has sat to comfort a mom or a dad whose life has been turned totally upside down by the loss of a child, ... by the violent taking of the life of a loved one, ... who has felt the despair of entire neighborhoods, and entire cities because of violence, and the violent taking of life. The degradation of violence. The violent destruction of violence. The ripping apart of the fabric of life that others have sewn for themselves and their families, ... understands that the most fundamental responsibility we have as a people is to safeguard the lives of people.

To govern is to choose. And particularly in an era of limited budget resources, every dollar that we choose to spend on a policy that is wasteful and does not work – when instead we could be doing more of the things that do work to protect life – seems to me to run counter to the pragmatic “do the things that work” governance that is the hallmark of our State, and what our people desire.

Releases

The death penalty does not work in terms of preventing violent crime and the taking of human life. If you look over 30 or 40 years, the death penalty was on the books, and yet Baltimore still became the most violent and addicted city in America. Having the death penalty on the books did nothing to keep the homicides from rising.

Conversely, over these last several years, we've been doing the things that work. We've been making our police departments more effective. We've been deploying to where the crime is. We've been using DNA technology and DNA evidence to solve crimes, as well as to exonerate those who were wrongly accused. We've been putting technology in the hands of law enforcement. We've been solving cases.

And as a result of doing the things that actually work, we've been able to drive violent crime down to three decade lows. We've been able to save scores and scores of lives that otherwise would have been taken by rising homicide numbers.

We know what works. Investing in law enforcement. Investing in data-driven policing. Increasing the availability of drug treatment. Performance measurement. Strengthening partnerships between police and neighbors. Investing in the latest crime fighting technologies, DNA analysis, healing vulnerable families – these are the things that work to reduce violent crime and save lives. The death penalty does not work.

Justice

Good people on both sides of this issue have, in the past, disagreed about the morality of the death penalty. I think there is increasingly less disagreement about its effectiveness, especially in our State. I wanted to shift to another topic, which is the justice and the morality of the death penalty.

Year after year, states which have a death penalty have actually had a higher murder rate than states which do not have a death penalty. That would seem to indicate to me that the death penalty, again, does not work as a deterrent.

And the other facts are even more troubling,... In 2008, the Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment that was led by distinguished son of Maryland, former United States Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, took a look at this issue with dedication, with fairness, with a lot of different perspectives around the table, and with a respect for differences of opinion. They did very good work. They held hours of hearings and considered in a very open, transparent, and also compassionate way, days of testimony from citizens who came at this issue from a variety of perspectives. And, quite frankly, a lot of personal pain.

The Commission found that for every 8.7 Americans sent to death row, there has been one innocent person exonerated.

It was near unanimous in reporting that quote "*the administration of the death penalty clearly shows racial bias.*" It determined that no administrative fixes could end these disparities.

And it found that the cost to taxpayers of pursuing a capital case is three times as much as the costs of pursuing a non-death penalty homicide conviction, where a person receives a life sentence without parole.

Who We Choose to Be

So, in conclusion, who do we choose to be?

To govern is to choose. All of us have to ask ourselves, “Is it worth wasting taxpayer dollars on a policy that does not work?”

And perhaps there is another question we might ask, which is “Who do we, as a People, aspire to be?”

Across our ever more closely linked world, the majority of executions take place in seven countries: Communist China. Iran. Iraq. North Korea. Saudi Arabia. Yemen. And the United States of America.

On the other hand, 141 countries have chosen to abolish capital punishment. I won’t read you that list, but as you might conclude, it is a much more expansive community than the number who still use the death penalty.

So who do we choose to be? In whose company to we choose to walk forward?

Will we be a society guided by the notion that two wrongs somehow make a right?

Or will we be a society that’s guided by the fundamental civil and human rights that we understand are bestowed on humankind by God? A society guided by the dignity of every individual. A society that is always moving forward to what’s right.

Today is the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who taught us that *“Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction.”*

The choice is really ours. We know what works. We know what does not work. And we know that the way forward is always found through greater respect for the human dignity of all.

Thanks very much.



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Tags: [capital punishment](#), [death penalty](#), [dignity](#), [equality](#), [fairness](#)

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Public Safety Press Conference

January 18th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Good morning. Thank you Senator Joan Carter Conway, and Delegates Jay Walker, Lou Simmons, and Sandy Rosenberg for your work with our task forces on gun violence and mental health. Delegate Pete Hammen, thank you for your commitment to mental health initiatives in our State. And Vinnie DeMarco is here – Vinnie, thank you for your work on preventing gun violence in our State.

I also want to thank Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, who has agreed to lead our community engagement efforts on this important issue over the weeks to come.

And I especially want to recognize the men and women of Maryland's law enforcement who are here today – our State is safer because of you. We're here to protect you: military style assault weapons don't just threaten children and families, they threaten the men and women of law enforcement who put themselves in harm's way every day.

A great American once said: *"The victims of the violence are black and white, rich and poor, young and old, famous and unknown. They are, most important of all, human beings whom other human beings loved and need ed."*

Every morning when I wake up, I look at two things before doing anything else,... how many of our fellow citizens were murdered the day before. And how many of our children we lost to violence.

In Maryland, we share the belief that we do not have to resign ourselves to the way things have always been,... or what we've never been able to do in the past. That we can save lives. That each life is precious. Each life is important. And if you save just one life, it is as if you have saved the entire world.

A decade and a half ago, when Baltimore had slipped into becoming the most violent, drug-addicted city in America,... we said that *"We create jobs and improve schools by first improving public safety."* That only by *"fighting crime and closing down open-air drug markets,"* could we make any progress for our City.

And because, with data-driven, results-oriented strategies, we drove down violent

[Releases](#)

crime 40%,... together, we made progress.

Progress is a choice. So long as gun violence continues to take the lives of our fellow Marylanders, there are choices we must make together.

That is what brings us here today. In addition to the initiatives to combat gun violence that we'll get to in a moment, we're proposing to renew our State's DNA law that has taken 510 murders, rapists, and other violent criminals off Maryland's streets.

We are also proposing the largest investment in Maryland's police forces in 20 years.

And we will advance common sense, comprehensive reforms to protect our families from gun violence.

Preventing Gun Violence in Maryland

I recently received a letter from a mom in Elkton, who writes – quote – “[We] don’t need politics when it comes to gun control – [we] need consensus and progress,... We need to feel safe in our malls and schools. We need our children to feel secure in their childhoods. I hope that politicians in Maryland can at least agree on that, and work together towards realistic change,...”

The causes of gun violence are complex and multifaceted. And so are the actions we can and must take, together, to prevent it. We can’t just take the easy road and think that addressing *just* guns, *just* school safety, or *just* mental health will solve this problem.

Therefore, the legislative package we’re putting forth is, by necessity, comprehensive and multi-pronged:

1. Guns. It will ban military-style assault weapons that have no place in the City of Baltimore, or in the State of Maryland. It will also limit the size of the magazines,... to make it harder for criminals to gun down, in succession, police officers or schoolchildren.

And, it will have a common-sense licensing requirements for handguns that respect the traditions of hunters and sportsmen.

2. Mental health. Never again do we want to say after the fact “*if we only knew what we knew.*” Therefore, it will contain real and substantive reforms to improve mental health services.

Reforms like more timely data-sharing,... investments in better treatment,... and the creation of a new Center for Excellence on Early Intervention for Serious Mental Illness, so that we’re able to utilize more effective early intervention strategies.

3. School safety. It will invest \$25 million in our schools to improve the safety of their facilities.

Those of us that have occasion to visit our children’s schools know that there is a wide spectrum when it comes to the safeguards that are in place. Simple things like the doors being locked, and visitors being checked in could make all the difference.

So, we will be creating a fund within our capital schools budget which will help us to bring schools up to higher standards.

We will also be creating a “Maryland Center for School Safety,” which will work with both public schools and law enforcement to provide advice for school officials on the things we can do to effectively safeguard our campuses.

Conclusion

To conclude: We’ve made important progress together, driving violent crime in Maryland down to three decade lows. This didn’t happen by itself. It wasn’t barometric pressures, or conditions brought about by the Gulf Stream that drove down violent crime in our State. These are human problems we are confronted with, and so too are their solutions.

The solutions we’re proposing are not about banning all guns or casting blame on everything *but* guns. It’s about putting the focus on saving lives,... with a comprehensive approach that puts the focus on the practical, common sense things that we can do together to save lives.

There is no way to completely eliminate the risk of another tragedy like the one in Newtown. But that cannot be an excuse that keeps us from doing common sense things. Because every life is valuable. Every life is needed.

This isn’t about ideology – it’s about human dignity. The dignity of every individual life. The dignity of every one of those little kids. The dignity of every child and every person in the United States of America. Thank you.



Tags: [crime](#), [guns](#), [protecting children](#), [strengthening families](#), [violence](#)

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Richard Ben Cramer

January 20th, 2013

Chestertown, MD

To Joan, and to all of you — Richard's friends and extended family — it is my humbling and sad honor to extend the condolences of the people of Maryland.

Joan, Richard loved you very much and you made him so very happy.

You should know that this morning, the flag over Maryland's Statehouse flies at half-staff in honor of Richard, his life, his love, and his loyalty to the deep truths that unite us as a country, as a people.

Joan, asked me to say a few words I suppose, on behalf of every politician that Richard ever forgave and loved,... or maybe on behalf of every idealistic kid who ever had his heart broken by politics.

Introduction

The Irish have a proverb that *"death is a sudden visitor who sends no story before him..."*

Fortunately for all of us here today,... Richard was a lot more interesting than death.

Richard sent lots of stories before him. Human stories, complex stories, stories of love and loss. Stories of hopes and dreams and defeats and failures. Compassionate stories. Heart-breaking stories. Hope-filled stories. True stories. True stories that are far more interesting than fiction; true stories that are far more lasting than fashion.

Richard befriended me in 1987. Lifted me up off the mat. And after "turning me" to help his little epic project, "What It Takes", he went on to feed me when I was hungry. He gave me drinks when I was thirsty. Ah,... he was generous — especially generous with the publisher's expense account,...

Like an older brother I never had, he challenged me, mentored me, kicked me in the pants when I needed it, consoled me in times of loss and defeat. Cheered me on through times of grey endurance.

Chapter One

Releases

Richard was a complex and gentle man who loved life, he delighted in all of life's little dramas. And of course, he wore many hats.

There was Richard the naturalist, Richard the Country Squire of Chestertown, Richard the fellow traveler in dire need of a triple A membership, Richard the serious journalist. Richard the mystic. Richard the woodworker. Richard the story teller — who could wile away the night regaling dinner guests with the true life urban ethnic political adventures of “the Staszak, DiPietro, Bonvegna, Southeast Democratic Club,…”

And there was Richard the off-line political consultant,...

In the heat of an uphill campaign for mayor, Richard hit my beeper with his number. He was checking up on me. Our campaign had started very late as the first choice of a whopping 8 percent of the electorate. I called Richard back from a neighborhood corner in northwest Baltimore on a big horse's leg of a car phone. I shared confidentially with him that as Election Day drew near, our internal polling had us, now, two points up on our closest rival.

I remember confiding to him that “I felt a lot more free and at ease when I was 30 points down and had nothing to lose,....”

Richard responded with his pointed wit, ... “Well it's only two points, so I'd suggest you find your old freedom and keep knocking on doors...”

That, too, was Richard.

Chapter Two

Sue Casey, who would play a central role in all of Gary Hart's presidential campaigns, wrote this week:

“I remember the first time I met Richard. He could have been a character out of The Great Gatsby, dressed in a white double-breasted polyester suit, with three inch wide lapels, colorful and decidedly mismatched shirt and tie, equally colorful suspenders holding up his trousers and a wide-brimmed white straw hat atop his wild curly hair.

‘You're the book guy everyone is talking about?’ I asked, ‘Seriously!?’

He just smiled and in that soft gravelly voice that reeled you in, he answered. ‘Yes ma'am. And we are going to be seeing a lot of each other, so you'd better get used to me.’ ...his warmth and his charm and his relentless quest....his unapologetic bromances with the many candidates he wrote about...”

This decidedly unfashionable man. How ironic and fitting that this man — whose great work was panned by so many of his peers at publication — would become so revered by a new generation of political journalists today.

Chapter Three

You see, Richard was a deeply principled journalist who loved the quiet truth at the heart of every great human story.

He loved the quiet human truth so much, in fact, that he lacked any patience with those who chose not to hear it; those who treated such a vitally important civic responsibility as political journalism, as if it were something less than civil, something less than journalism, something less than honorable.

It was fashionable in those days to see journalists as the hunters, and politicians as the hunted.

Richard affirmatively rejected that sort of fashionable, insider, all-so-smart, smug, know-it-all, seen-it-all political journalism. He rejected the cartoon cynicism that can freeze idealism into indifference, can twist justice into cruelty, and can drown righteousness in hypocrisy,...

Richard valued honesty, compassion, and integrity in journalism much more than the acceptance and the accolades of DC salon dinners,...

Chapter Four. Final story

As the twilight of his days too quickly approached, Joan told me she had to make a point of being with him whenever the doctors reported on his latest scans. You see, Richard had told Joan after an earlier scan that the doctors told him it “was almost completely clear.” Joan asked the doctors — why would they tell him such a thing? The doctors told her,... that is not what they had told him.

When she confronted Richard, he shrugged his shoulders and said, “...I guess you hear what you want to hear,...”

Epilogue

The great American, Rabbi Joshua Heschel, writes: “Between the dawn of childhood and the door of death, man encounters things and events out of which comes a whisper of truth,... not much louder than stillness,... but exhorting and persistent,...”

Thank you, Richard, dear friend and brother for listening for that whisper of truth.

Thank you, Richard, for hearing the loving, striving humanity you chose to hear.

Thank you for telling us the true stories.

Thank you for challenging all of us to listen for them ourselves.

Noble journalist, honest and loving man, gentle listener: “*Guardian of the freedom of the human spirit.*”

Well done, Richard.

Rest well, my friend.



Tags: [Baltimore Sun](#), [Ben Cramer](#), [dignity](#), [journalist](#), [memorial service](#)



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Offshore Wind Rally

January 22nd, 2013

Annapolis, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you very, very much. It's great to be here with such a great group of people who represent Maryland's businesses, our environmental advocates, our highly skilled workforce, and our hard working families. We're all in this together, and we all want to build a better future for our children.

A big thank you to our 24 co-sponsors in the Maryland State Senate, and our 58 co-sponsors in the House for sharing our belief that, with better choices, we can create jobs, expand opportunity, and move our State forward together.

There are some challenges so large and so important that we can only tackle them by working together – and this is one of those issues. Harnessing the potential of off-shore wind for jobs, opportunity, and green energy is a tremendous challenge – it's one that we have the opportunity to rise to in this session, once again.

To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments. An overwhelming majority (72%) of Marylanders say it's time for us to invest in offshore wind energy. And the time to act is now.

With this legislation we're announcing today – which will pave the way for a 200MW wind project off the coast of Ocean City – we have the opportunity to jumpstart the creation of thousands of green manufacturing, assembly and servicing jobs, while doing the right thing for consumers, for our environment, and for our long-term energy independence and our long term energy future.

In this changing new economy, there will be states that win, and there will be states that lose. One of the things that defines Maryland's ability to be a winner in this modern economy is the precious consensus we're able to forge to make difficult, but important and transformational choices. Choices that not only advance a more sustainable future, but also create jobs and expand opportunity.

Together, we've chosen to set strategic goals for creating green jobs: increasing our in-state renewable generation 20% by 2022, reducing greenhouse emissions 25% by 2020, and reducing per capita electricity consumption and demand 15% by

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2015.

Why do we set these goals and relentlessly measure our progress? Because wind energy means Maryland jobs. And our strength in Maryland lies in our world class workforce, which is powered by the resiliency, ingenuity, skills, and education of our people.

Passing this legislation will mean that, every single year for the next 5 years, we will create 850 jobs in construction, manufacturing, and assembly in our State. We will also create an additional 160 permanent jobs for families in Maryland. By choosing to move forward with this legislation, we're not only creating jobs, we are also laying the ground work for a better future for our children. With this wind project, we'll reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this region by over 378,000 tons per year. As a result, this wind project will save Maryland's economy over \$17 million per year in public health costs.

These things don't happen by chance. They happen because of the choices that we make together. So once again, thank you all for your support.



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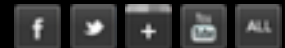
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State of the State

January 30th, 2013

Better Choices; Better Results

Annapolis, MD

A footnoted version of the speech is available [here](#).

Acknowledgments

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Distinguished Minority Leaders, Lieutenant Governor Brown, Treasurer Kopp, Governor Hughes, Governor Glendening, Attorney General Gansler, Attorney General Curran; colleagues in city and county government; Congressman Cummings, Congresswoman Edwards; Mayor Vincent Gray, from our neighbors in New Columbia; Ambassador Darmanovic, Ambassador Schnepf, Ambassador Negodic, Ambassador Al-Rumaihi, Ambassador Collins; Members of the most effective cabinet in the United States of America; Katie O'Malley, men and women of the Maryland General Assembly.

There is more that unites us than divides us, and one of those things is the mighty,

All of us are familiar with the Ravens story, but there are also a number of remarkable people with us here today in the Gallery and I wanted to share a few of their stories with all of you.

First, one of our nation's leading minds and most prominent advocates for science, technology, engineering, and math education. Some of you may know him as a member of our State School Board. Later this week, President Obama will be awarding him the National Medal of Science for his achievement in physics – Dr. James Gates.

Two years ago, this next Marylander and her children were homeless. Today, she's turned a temporary work placement into a good, full-time job. Please welcome Janice Spanish from Caroline County and the dedicated state employee from our Department of Human Resources who helped her secure this opportunity, Melissa Jones-Harris.

Within the heart of every individual is a spirit and dignity that yearns to be recognized. Twelve months ago, just outside these doors, we officially recognized for the first time in 380 years the Piscataway people, in a ceremony none of us will soon forget. Please welcome Tribal Chair Mervin Savoy of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe. Miss Mervin, thank you for being here.

We are also joined by finally a great Mayor, who, because of budget constraints also found himself doing the job of City Manager. When his own home was flooded during Hurricane Sandy, he set aside his personal needs and instead worked day and night to help the families of his city through the crisis. From the courageous City of Crisfield – Mayor P.J. Purnell.

Introduction

My fellow Marylanders: the story of Dr. Gates, the story of Janice and Melissa, the story of Tribal Chair Savoy and all the Piscataway people, the story of Crisfield and Mayor Purnell, the sacrifices of our fallen heroes – these are *our* stories. Stories of courage. Stories of perseverance.

It is a tremendous honor to serve the people of Maryland with all of you.

When faced with the adversity of the national recession, the people of our State did not make excuses. Instead, they started businesses. They enrolled in night school. They made difficult decisions around the kitchen table about how to do more for their children. They volunteered through churches, and synagogues, and mosques. They pulled their neighbors through Hurricane Sandy and the heavy blizzard that struck Garrett County.

What we have experienced, together, over these last several years... what we have shared with one another, was not denial and it was not fear. Nor was it merely hope. It was belief. It was belief in the dignity of every individual. Our belief in our own responsibility to advance the common good. And our understanding and belief that we are all in this together, and that tomorrow can be better than today – if, with God's grace, we choose to make it so.

Progress is a choice. Job creation is a choice. Whether we give our children a future of more or a future of less – this, too, is a choice.

Our story, Maryland's story, is the story of better choices and better results.

No other state can say at once, and hold your applause, that they are #1 in education five years in a row. #1 in holding down the cost of college tuition. #1 in innovation and entrepreneurship. #1 in human capital capacity. #1 in access to dental care for all children, regardless of income. #1 in PHD scientists and researchers. #1 in Research and Development. #1 in businesses owned by women. #1 in median family income. And we're not done yet.

As we emerge, and we still have a long ways to go, but as we emerge from the toughest of economic times, the State of our State is strong, and we are growing stronger still.

And none of this, none of this happened by chance. So many of you have had to cast the tough votes in order to make it possible.

Better Choices; Better Results

Remember seven years ago? Our State had veered off course. We started following the same, never-mind-the-math approach that created our federal deficits at the national level. Democrats and Republicans alike – in this very Chamber – had voted to cut taxes for millionaires, and to greatly increase state spending, without paying for either one.

The result: a \$1.7 billion structural deficit. That's how math works. What's less, we were paying taxes for a government that was not working; that was failing to deliver results. Underperforming schools. Tuition hikes approaching 40%. Rising crime outside of Baltimore.

But in 2007, together, we started making better choices. We cut spending growth. We added a penny to the sales tax to improve our children's education. We restored revenues by making our tax code more progressive and more fair. We took concrete action to close our structural deficit.

When the national recession hit – wiping out jobs and revenues all across our country including here – other states tried to cut their way to prosperity. Many found this only made things worse. Laying off police officers, fire fighters and teachers. Cutting public education. Hiking up college tuition by double digits every year. Continuing down the merry path of cutting taxes for the very wealthy, hoping against cruel experience that somehow it would trickle down to the rest of us.

But in Maryland, here, we made better choices.

We used the pressure of sinking revenues to make government more efficient and effective. For the first time, we started setting public goals with more immediate deadlines. We started measuring weekly performance to make government more effective, to make it work.

We constrained budget growth and made government smaller. We strengthened our Rainy Day Fund and protected our Triple A Bond Rating.

We fixed our pension system and it wasn't easy. We reformed hundreds of pages of regulations, we streamlined permitting, and we fast tracked jobs projects. We eliminated paperwork, simplified applications for business licenses, and reduced waiting times, in some cases, from months to days.

We advanced public-private partnerships like the one at the Port that's created thousands of jobs.

We put real-time information about the people's government into the people's hands by using the internet, posting the information on the internet, converted paper notecards to digital files, and used smart maps to better target our limited resources.

We cut more state spending than any administration in modern history.

Recognizing that our diversity is our greatest strength, we move forward toward the most ambitious goal in America from empowering women and minority owned businesses. And this year, for the first time we exceeded that goal.

Knowing that we could not cut our way to prosperity, we balanced record budget cuts with modern investments. Investments in the very priorities that create jobs and expand opportunity: educating, innovating, and rebuilding for a better economic future.

Better choices. Better results. The proof is in our progress.

Progress recovering jobs at the fastest rate of any state in the region. Progress helping more of our neighbors transition from welfare to work – 12,000 just last year. Partnering with businesses large, medium and small to create more jobs – 30,300 jobs over the most recent twelve months.

Together with courageous law enforcement officers and firefighters, we are driving down violent crime, driving down homicide, driving down fire deaths – all to historic lows.

We are doing more than any other state to hold down the cost of college tuition so more families can afford to send their kids to college.

We are helping more families to save their homes from foreclosure.

We are reducing infant mortality to record lows. We are now feeding tens of thousands of Maryland children who would otherwise would go hungry. We are doing more than ever before to shelter the homeless. We are helping families, and helping our neighbors free themselves from the despair of substance abuse.

We are moving record cargo through our Port, and record passengers through Baltimore-Washington's Thurgood Marshall Airport.

Our actions are making the waters, Governor Hughes, Governor Glendening, of the Chesapeake Bay healthier – rescuing the Blue Crab; reviving our Native Oyster; more farmers planting cover crops than ever before in order to improve the waters of our Bay.

And our record investments in public education are delivering record high student achievement. Record high graduation rates. An historic closing of the achievement

gaps between white and non-white students. The best Advanced Placement scores in science, technology, engineering, and math our students have ever achieved. The best overall AP scores of any state in the nation.

And this is where you can clap, for not one, not two, not three, not four, but five years in a row – the #1 best public schools in America!

Jobs and Education

These are the choices, these are the choices...these are the choices we have already made. Now to the choices ahead of us.

Job creation must be our top priority, always. While we are recovering jobs faster than any other state in our region, there are still too many moms and dads who are out of work, who are still searching for work.

Therefore, this year's budget is a jobs budget: it invests in 43,000 jobs rebuilding roads, bridges, tunnels, community colleges, affordable housing units, clean water infrastructure, and other forward-looking projects with your help. It protects nearly 26,000 law enforcement jobs throughout our State. It supports over 114,000 jobs educating our children.

This budget invests to improve public education and to build new schools. It accelerates the transition from chalk and textbooks in our classrooms, to iPads, laptops and smart-boards, and 21st century digital learning tools and your vote will accelerate those innovations. And once again, it holds down the cost of college tuition.

This progress, as you well know, is only possible with fiscal responsibility and a balanced approach.

The budget before you saves more than recommended by the Spending Affordability Guidelines. It increases both our Rainy Day Fund and our Cash Reserves. It protects our Triple A Bond Rating. It very nearly eliminates the structural deficit.

And, it brings our total spending cuts to \$8.3 billion dollars over the life of this administration.

These are the choices which enable us to invest in a stronger and better future, the future that all of us prefer for our children: more job creation, more opportunity, a stronger, growing middle class.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Three stories, all with a common theme:

We are joined today in the Gallery by an inventor and an entrepreneur. He reached out to 200 colleges and professors asking for lab space. And guess what, 199 turned him down. He went on to invent an inexpensive tool for detecting pancreatic and ovarian cancers – which he has now patented. 8,500 of our fellow citizens selected him as the winner of our MDForward contest. What's more, the people at Intel selected him, this Marylander, for their top International Science and Engineering prize. He happens to be 15 years old. Buy stock in this guy and please welcome Jack Andraka and his proud mom, Jane who are with us.

We're also joined by a small business owner from Havr e de Grace, who also happens to be a courageous, disabled veteran. She moved her business out of her own dining room and into a store front on South Union Avenue. And now she's tripled her customers. Please welcome Sergeant Leana Nishimura-Stewart.

Now Senator Young had occasion to introduce me to this gentleman and I visited with him in Frederick. He started a company called Nexus EnergyHomes. They build houses at market prices – and get this, these homes are designed to consume net zero energy. For families, that means electricity bills, energy bills as low as \$3 or \$4 a month. For the people of Frederick, it means hundreds of jobs. Nexus EnergyHomes was named a national “home builder of the year” last year. Their CEO, Paul Zanecki also joins us in the Gallery.

Now what do these stories have in common? Innovation and entrepreneurship. The United States Chamber of Commerce has named Maryland #1 in innovation and entrepreneurship and they've done so for a reason. And it's a reason to do more, not a reason to do less.

From net zero homes, to mapping the human genome, Marylanders are doing remarkable work that is remaking this world of ours. The life sciences, bio-tech, clean-tech, green-tech, information technology, cyber security, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing – these sectors are all creating jobs right here in Maryland.

Creating jobs through innovation is not just the responsibility though of the private sector. There are things we can do together – through that common platform of our government – to accelerate innovation and improve the business climate: Attracting venture capital, as you are doing, through *InvestMaryland*. Moving more new technologies and ideas out of our great university labs, but moving them into the marketplace where they can create jobs and new opportunities. Leveraging our first-in-the-nation health-IT network. Supporting Lt. Governor Brown's tremendous efforts to advance more creative uses of public-private partnerships to rebuild our critical infrastructure. Expanding our successful job creation tax credits for biotech, and research and development. And, by this year creating a new cyber security tax credit.

There's another important thing we can do this year that will also create jobs, and that is off-shore wind. Moving forward with off-shore wind.

Moving forward with off-shore wind could make Maryland, the new regional manufacturing hub for wind turbines. We will create jobs and we will generate abundant and clean, renewable energy, but only if we choose, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, member of the General Assembly let's get this done this year, shall we?

Maryland's Workforce

Ultimately, the greatest assets we have, as you all know, as demonstrated by the votes you've cast, are the talents and skills of our people. Maryland has built up one of the most highly skilled workforces in the country. Better choices; better results. But the reality is that too many of the new jobs being created in our new economy still go unfilled. Why? Because too many of our people lack the skills to fill them.

Your vote on the EARN bill, will allow us to partner with business to equip more workers with the skills they need to fill jobs that are in highest demand.

Speaking of skilled workers, veterans, many of them with tremendous skill, who are returning from active duty service often find they face barriers to employment in every state. And oftentimes, this barrier is the state's own licensing system. In Maryland, we can remove those barriers to veterans and their spouses, with your vote for the Veterans Full Employment Act.

We've made solid progress expanding Career & Technology Education in our high schools. But there is so much more that we can do and we must do. If lifelong *learning* is the new reality, then we must give our high school graduates the skills they need for life long *earning*.

Prince George's County has a tremendous community college. And Prince George's Community College has partnered with the County's public schools with an innovative solution: they let motivated high schools students work toward both their two-year Associates Degree *and* their high school diploma – at the same time. With your vote, for another innovation fund, we can make this sort of early access to affordable college credit a reality for more families across our State.

Which now brings me to the ongoing challenge of college completion.

You've met with them...I've met with them, all across our state the business leaders I meet will tell me we are simply not producing enough college graduates – especially in science, technology, engineering, and math. We have done a good job of getting more of our children *to* college. But we must do a better job of getting more of our students *through* college.

And we're seeing things that actually work. Our community colleges are already delivering results: last year they graduated 49% more students than they were five years ago. That's some pretty impressive progress. They've increased production, and that's why this year I'm asking you to increase their funding so they can do even more.

But we need to pick up the pace at our four-year colleges.

Here are some things we can do, together with our university system, that actually work: we can redesign college curricula and more courses to better promote completion. We can move our system toward rewarding a student's competency, and not merely the number of years he or she spends sitting in a lecture hall. We can rework financial aid so that more students can afford to carry full course loads to complete their degrees on or ahead of time. And we can give students more online options for earning college credit.

We can reach our goals, but we're going to have to make better choices if we want better results.

A Modern Transportation Network

There's another major job creation action we could take, but so far the consensus has eluded us.

We have the worst traffic congestion in the country. And you all have cast a lot of difficult votes time and time again to move us from the back of the pack to the front of the pack in some cases. There is no reason why we should be content with having the worst traffic congestion in the country. Building a 21st century transportation network won't happen by itself. I greatly appreciate the work the President has been doing as we begin this session and also the conversations with the Speaker. We could be creating thousands of jobs and alleviating traffic congestion at the same time. We can either figure this out together, for every citizen of our State, and we can do this now and end our session, or all of us are going to waste more time and money sitting in more and worse traffic.

To govern is to choose.

Public Safety

The most fundamental responsibility of any government is public safety. It is the passion for improving public safety that drove me into public service.

Thanks to the brave work of law enforcement officers, thanks to better technology, thanks to better strategies, together we have driven violent crime down nearly 25% since 2006.

Every life is needed. Every life is important. And every day there is more that we must do.

We lose far too many American lives to gun violence.

Who can watch the sad images of the last several weeks, who can see the pictures of those young faces, and honestly say that we are doing enough?

Louis in Montgomery County, who joins us also the Gallery, writes this letter, quote: *"My wife Dorothy,... and I urgently request your ardent support for a comprehensive ban on all deadly assault weapons,... I am a 92-year old veteran of WWII who spent four years in the service of my beloved country. I believe fervently in our Constitution. What I do not believe in is this,...the right to own weapons which should only be used by the military,..."*

Four years ago, with Lt. Governor Brown's leadership, this Assembly took action to protect the victims of domestic violence from the threat of guns. This year, I ask that you take further action, and in a comprehensive way.

I ask you to ban the sale of military assault weapons in Maryland. I ask you to require a license for the purchase of all handguns – but not hunting rifles. I ask that you help improve mental health treatment and information sharing, and to expand crisis intervention. I also ask that you invest in security upgrades in our schools.

Last year, speaking of what works, the people of Prince George's County teamed with their police department to save 31 more lives, driving down homicides in just one year period of time by 33%. Effective tactics and strategies, rapid deployment, relentless follow-up – there are things we can do they work, they save lives.

Since 2007, because of your support and your vote, we have used forensic DNA technology to take 520 murderers, rapists, and other violent criminals off of our

streets. We need to renew our DNA law this year, because DNA technology is a strategy that works.

Performance measured policing, the Violence Prevention Initiative at Parole & Probation, license plate readers, digital fingerprinting technology – these things work, and when the things are working, when they are effective, when they work, we should do more of them. But when we realize that something isn't working and it's also expensive, we should stop doing it.

The death penalty is expensive and it does not work and we should stop doing it. Research in our own commission has shown that it is not a deterrent. It cannot be administered without racial bias. It costs three times as much as locking someone up for life without parole. And it cannot be reversed if an innocent person is executed.

It is time to repeal the death penalty in Maryland and replace it with life without parole.

Consider this, consider this: all across our ever-more-closely connected world, the majority of executions now take place in just seven countries: Iran. Iraq. The People's Republic of China. North Korea. Saudi Arabia. Yemen. And the United States of America.

Conclusion

I leave you with these thoughts:

Life is an ever evolving story of change and choice –letting go of things and ways that were, in order to reach for that which we have yet to achieve.

It is not some random shuffling of the deck, or a tossing of cards. Life is an intentional process, and it calls for the goodness of our own intentions.

We, here in Maryland, are called to work at the center of this intentional movement. For every decision we make, there is a future foretold.

Jobs and opportunity; public safety, public education, public transportation, the health of our people and the health of our planet. These are our concerns; and they are also the world's concerns.

And it comes to this: do we believe the challenges facing our State and our country are things that are happening "to us," or things that are happening "for us?" If we believe that they are happening *to* us, then we are victims. If, on the other hand, we believe they are happening *for* us, then every problem is actually a means to deeper understanding, to greater growth in the highest sense, to more security, and more opportunity.

Let me be specific.

We are one of the most vulnerable states in our country to the impact of sea-level rise. Climate disruption is real. Climate change is not an ideological issue any more than gravity is. It is physics, pure and simple.

Maryland might not be able to change what people in India or China do with respect

to climate. We can, however, use the prospect of a carbon constrained world as the means to invent a more prosperous future, and to drive innovation, and education, and industry, and jobs, and growth.

We are a state, yes; but, we can also act like the heart of a forward-moving country whose eyes and ears are open to the world.

I believe that all of us here in Maryland are truly covered by the shield of His goodness. We need only the courage to let go. To let go of the falsehoods, the vengeance, the short-sightedness of rash and oftentimes imbalanced decisions – the things of our past that no longer serve.

And once leaving them behind, we shall have the reach to make a new world – free from fear, and worthy of our children’s love and trust.

Thank you all very, very much.



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Tags: [education](#), [innovation](#), [jobs](#), [Moving Maryland Forward](#), [safety](#), [strengthening families](#), [sustainability](#)

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Testimony on the Firearms Safety Act of 2013 (Senate)

February 6th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Chairman Frosh, Vice-Chair Gladden, Members of the Committee:

We choose to take on gun violence because every life is precious,... because every life is needed,... because there is no tragedy worse than the death of a child

In Maryland, even as we've partnered with law enforcement to drive down homicide to three decade lows, we are still losing too many of our fellow citizens to gun violence.

In 2011, the most recent year for which we have data, 516 Marylanders – mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts – were killed by guns.[\[1\]](#)
We have more work to do.

There is no such thing as a spare Marylander or spare American. That's why a broad coalition of police chiefs, faith leaders, advocates for domestic violence victims, and citizens from across our State have come together in support of the legislation you consider today.

These proposals build on the important work we are doing together to protect domestic violence victims from guns,... and on the important work of our Task Force on Guns and Mental illness,... and it builds on the work of brave Maryland law enforcement who put themselves in harm's way and seized over 18-hundred illegal guns from criminals last year.

A Comprehensive Approach

This legislation takes a comprehensive approach:

It includes common sense licensing provisions to keep guns away from criminals while protecting the right to legal handgun ownership. It requires a license and a criminal background check to purchase a gun. It has a gun safety training component. And it has other measures aimed at preventing criminals from obtaining guns.

Releases

Licensing provisions work. In cities where licensing is required, there are fewer guns diverted to criminals: so-called “straw-purchases” – in which people with clean records buy guns and hand them over to criminals, who then use them to kill or commit other crimes.

What’s more, other states that have similar licensing provisions and they also have substantially lower gun death rates than states that do not.

Let me be clear: we are not trying to ban handguns. This law protects legal gun ownership. It is designed to stop criminals from buying guns.

Let me be clear about another thing: we are licensing handguns, not hunting rifles. We are committed to protecting hunter’s and their traditions.

This legislation bans the sale of military-style assault weapons.

We are also proposing a limit on the size of high capacity magazines.

Today, four states ban high capacity magazines with more than ten rounds. All are among the states with the lowest rates of gun deaths.

With your vote we will take a number of actions to improve mental health treatment and timely data sharing. Never again do we want to say after the fact “*if we only knew what we knew.*” In addition to new investments and information sharing upgrades, we will create Center for Excellence on Early Intervention for Serious Mental Illness. The Center will utilize more effective early intervention strategies so we can save more lives.

We will act to upgrade security at Maryland’s schools with a \$25 million investment in security upgrades at Maryland’s schools. Those of us that have occasion to visit our children’s schools know that there is a wide spectrum when it comes to the safeguards that are in place. Simple things like the doors being locked, and visitors being checked in could make all the difference. So, we will be creating a fund within our capital schools budget which will help us to bring schools up to higher standards.

Building on our Task Force’s recommendations, we will create a “Maryland Center for School Safety,” which will work with both public schools and law enforcement to provide advice for school officials on the things we can do to effectively safeguard our campuses.

Conclusion

To conclude: we’ve made important progress together, driving violent crime in Maryland down to three decade lows. This didn’t happen by itself. It wasn’t barometric pressures. These are human problems we are confronted with, and so too are their solutions.

The solutions we’re proposing are not about banning all guns or casting blame on everything but guns. They are about putting the focus on saving lives,... with a comprehensive approach that puts the focus on the practical, common sense things that we can do together to save lives.

This isn’t about ideology, it is about public safety. Doing common sense things that work to save lives.

[1] This includes murders, suicides, and accidents



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Tags: [crime](#), [Firearm Safety Act of 2013](#), [gun violence](#), [guns](#), [protecting children](#), [protecting families](#)

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Federal Facilities Advisory Board

February 7th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thanks very much. Kevin Kelley and the entire Advisory Board have worked very hard on these recommendations – thank you all very much for everything you are doing on behalf of our State.

We're here for three reasons: Jobs. Opportunity. Economic growth.

Maryland's Economy is an Innovation Economy: the life sciences, biotech, clean tech, green tech, aerospace, information technology, cyber security, advanced manufacturing,... these sectors are creating jobs today, and with our work together, they will create even more jobs tomorrow.

Federal Facilities and Job Growth

All of us are here today because we recognize that there is more we can do to tap into the potential of one Maryland's great assets: the more than 70 federal facilities and military installations which call Maryland home .

At places like NIH, NIST, the NSA, and NASA-Goddard, over 314,000 Marylanders work for the federal government contributing nearly \$26 billion in earnings to Maryland's economy each year.

But this is only part of the story. Every one of these facilities, labs, bases, and installations is a potential job creation engine for entrepreneurial Marylanders.

Our job, our goal, and the mission of this Advisory Board is to strengthen our connections and partnerships so we can create more jobs, expand more opportunity, spark even greater innovation, and further grow our economy.

Your recommendations make a lot of sense.

Cyber Security, as you correctly point out, is one sector where we have distinct competitive advantages. We are working with NIST to establish a permanent Maryland home for the National Cyber Security Center for Excellence. Right now the Center is up and running in a temporary location at Shady Grove.

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We have tasked our new Equity Director at DBED to target resources to cyber companies and to aerospace companies as well.

And this session we are proposing a new cyber security tax credit, modeled after the successful biotech tax credit.

Advancing technology transfer is also an important priority. That's why last year we created the Maryland Innovation Initiative and this year, we're asking the General Assembly to help us transfer more technologies out of university labs and into the marketplace for job creation.

We agree with your assessment that there are things we can do to streamline state permitting processes – and through an initiative called Maryland Made Easy we are making permitting more efficient.

And you are right to put an emphasis on Maryland's workforce. Our greatest economic assets are the talents and skills of our people. This session we're proposing a record investment in public education and in digital learning tools like smart boards and laptops,... we're asking the General Assembly to keep down the cost of College Tuition, increase funding for Maryland's community colleges, and create a new innovation fund for Early Access to College.

What's more, we have a package of proposals to promote college completion.

And later today I'll be testifying in support of the EARN bill, to advance industry-led skills training in high demand sectors.

Conclusion

Maryland is the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's #1 State for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. We're the #1 state for R&D, the #1 state for human capital capacity, the #1 state for PHD engineers and scientists per capita,... and Education Week magazine says we're #1 for education.

But this isn't an excuse for running in place. It's an impetus for taking advantages of our place – our place in time, our place in history, our place in geography,...

Marylanders working in our federal facilities and bases,... in our schools, laboratories, and innovative companies large medium and small, are remaking the way we feed, fuel and heal our world.

Ironically, it is the very immensity of the problems we face with respect to climate change, terror, resource scarcity, energy security, and health that is driving innovation in every sphere of education, technology and life sciences – endeavors that all of us are able to rightly count among Maryland's greatest competitive economic strengths.

With job creation as goal #1, our mission is to turn these economic strengths into job creation, opportunity, and growth. Thank you all very much.



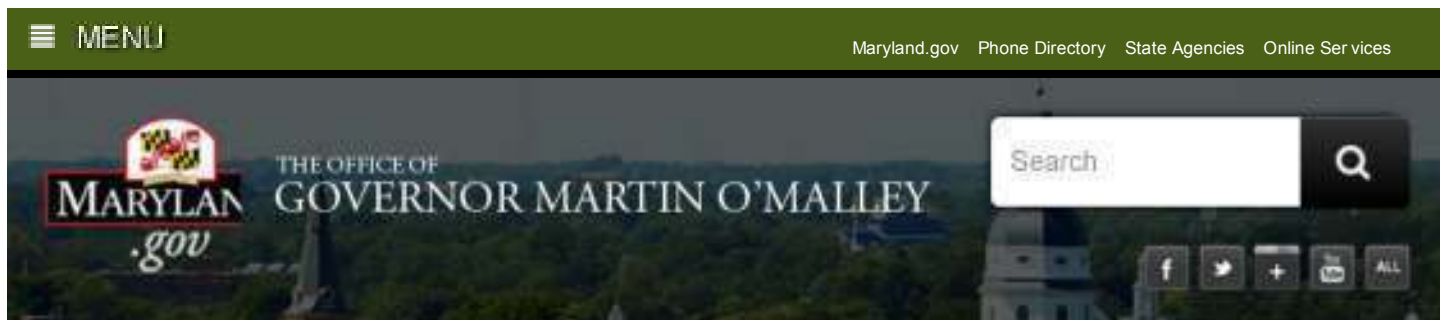
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Testimony on the Veterans Full Employment Act

February 7th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Chair Carter Conway, Vice Chair Dyson, Members of the Committee:

It's an honor to be here today before all of you, and I appreciate your consideration of the Veterans Full Employment Act. This bill goes to some of the most important goals that we have as a State.

There is no progress without jobs, and oftentimes in our State, we have a chronic skills shortage. The good news here is that we have veterans who are looking for work, who come back here from theater, or who maybe are coming from out-of-state, some of them with spouses who are very highly skilled, who used to hold licenses in their former state, and we have the need for them to become part of this workforce.

Earlier today, I met with the Federal Facilities Advisory Board on recommendations, and we talked about the skills of our workforce as a critical component for improving our economy.

Upstairs, I was testifying on the EARN bill, which was about better skills for our people.

I wanted to take a couple of seconds with the Lt. Governor's help to bring you up to date on some of the things we're already doing for our veterans together. And when you are done, Lt. Governor, I will outline what this bill does.

Veterans often face barriers erected by their State's own bureaucracy, for themselves or for their spouses. I'm proud of all the ways we're ahead of other states in so many categories, but when it comes to the cause of removing the licensing barriers that our veterans face, we're actually behind the curve, and with this bill we can catch up.

I've often attended meetings of the National Governor's Association, where people like Admiral Mullen and others present to us and show us the big map of the United States and highlight those states that have adopted bills like this, that meet DOD portability, good housekeeping, full veterans employment seal of approval, and sadly

Releases

our State has not yet been numbered among them.

What does this bill do? In essence, it helps us drive towards a goal that we have established in the second term of full employment for our veterans.

Maryland's veterans' unemployment rate is unacceptably high: 8.8%, for post 9/11 veterans it's 9.7%.

So, these are the things that this bill would do:

1. Expedite licensing for veterans, service members, and their spouses who relocate to Maryland from another state. If another state licensed you, you will move to the front of the line in Maryland. More than 20 states already do this, and it's time for Maryland to get on board with doing this as well. There are also provisions in this bill that create the ability to issue a provisional license, so people can get right back to work while they fulfill the requirements for that particular license in Maryland.
2. It credit veterans for their military training and other education and experience when they apply for occupational and professional licenses in Maryland. Sixteen states are now already doing this.
3. Provide academic credit to veterans at state four-year colleges and community colleges for relevant military training and education. This will lower the cost of earning a degree and allows veterans to get their degrees quicker. The more degrees our people have the better that is for our state and our economy. Thirteen states are already doing this now. There's a great example in our state: Montgomery Community College is doing this already and doing it very well. This needs to be the norm across our State, not the exception, not the sort of best practice that we hope in several years other people might adopt.

With your vote you will put in place the mechanisms that allow this to happen, through the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and through our Board of Regents, as well as through various licensing boards.

I appreciate your time and consideration and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.



Tags: [2013 Legislative Session](#), [jobs](#), [military](#), [military families](#), [supporting our troops](#), [veterans](#)

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Testimony on the Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) Act

February 7th, 2013

Chairman Middleton, Vice Chair Astle, Members of the Committee: Thank you for your consideration of the EARN Bill. Your president, Mike Miller, and your colleague Senator Kathy Klausmeier have been working very hard to on this initiative. They believe, as do I, that job creation, opportunity, and economic growth all depend on our ability to strengthen Maryland's greatest economic assets: the talents and skills of our people.

NO PROGRESS WITHOUT A JOB

There is no progress without a job. Later today, I will be testifying before your colleagues on the Veterans Full Employment Act. As you know, veterans returning from active duty service face barriers to employment in every state. Oftentimes, this barrier is the state's own licensing system. We're proposing to reform it.

This session we've also sent proposals to you and your colleagues on job creation priorities like public education, affordable college, a new cyber security tax credit, off-shore wind, and moving more technologies out of our university labs and into the marketplace.

What's more, we are teaming with our partners in the business community to reduce the administrative and regulatory burden on businesses. And we're working through our Federal Facilities Task Force – which offered some worthwhile recommendations earlier today, for leveraging Maryland's federal facilities and military installations.

Any and all of these priorities depend on our ability to help more Marylanders obtain the skills to compete and feed their families. As Dr. Jeffrey Sachs writes: "Solutions to jobs will be found... by improving the skills of the workforce, the quality of working life, and the proper functioning of the labor market."

EARN

The EARN Bill will help more Maryland moms and dads get better jobs. It will help our businesses grow Maryland's economy. And it will help our State recruit more global companies to bring their jobs and business to Maryland.

Maryland has built up one of the most highly skilled workforces in the country. The

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Milken Institute ranks us #1 for human capital capacity and Education Week magazine says, for the fifth year in a row that our public schools are #1 as well. We are #1 in PHD scientists and engineers per capita, and we have one of the two highest concentrations of Bachelor's Degrees in America.

Yet, the reality is that too many of the new jobs being created in our new economy go unfilled. Just to give you one example, we have more than three times as many open wellness sector jobs as applicants.

Why do we have more openings than applicants? Because too many of our people lack the skills to fill them.

The EARN bill will help us bridge our skills gaps.

Business and industry, four-year colleges, community colleges, local workforce investment boards, local government, state government, worker training providers – all of us have a role to play. EARN brings together all these various stakeholders.

Here's how it would work: moms and dads looking to obtain new skills for high demand jobs sectors would be able – through our One Stop Centers, Community Colleges, and GED programs – to participate in skills trainings, free of charge.

These skills trainings would be run by employer-led partnerships that bring together the various stakeholders. They will be funded by state grants and targeted toward four high demand jobs sectors: construction, advanced manufacturing, cyber security, and wellness.

CONCLUSION

Our friends in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Washington State have had success with similar initiatives. With your support we can help more moms and dads in Maryland obtain the skills to compete and feed their families.

Thank you again for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



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Tags: [2013 Legislative Session](#), [economic growth](#), [jobs](#), [testimony](#)

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Taste of Maryland Agriculture Dinner

February 7th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Thank you. It's great to be here with everyone from the Maryland Agriculture Council. It's also good to be here with Ed and Marian Fry, our newest inductees into the Agriculture Hall of Fame. I want to recognize Secretary Buddy Hance, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, and everyone here from the Maryland General Assembly – thank you for fighting on behalf of Maryland's farms.

Thanks also to all the farms that are so wonderfully represented in this locally grown, Maryland-proud meal tonight. And to all the farmers who are here, thank you for everything that you do, day in and day out, to create jobs, strengthen our economy, and feed our families.

Since day one, creating jobs and expanding opportunity have been our greatest priorities in the O'Malley Brown Administration.

You may have heard that our schools have been the #1 best public schools in America for 5 years in a row. And together, we're creating jobs – 30,300, alongside our partners in business in the past 12 months. In fact, we've recovered nearly 81% of the jobs we lost during the recession – the fastest recovery rate in the region.

We can only continue this progress together,... progress to create jobs and secure a better future for our children,... if we come together to make farming more profitable. So, just as you're working hard on behalf of our families, we're working hard to make sure that you're able to do so for generations to come.

We chose together to pass legislation which shields family farms from estate taxes,... ensuring that your farmland will continue to be passed down from generation to generation.

We're investing \$2.5 million to help farms across our State better manage and transport manure – something that's good for our farms, good for our land, and good for our water.

And this year, in our 2010 Trust Fund, we chose again to invest \$2.6 million dollars in technical assistance for our farmers through the soil conservation districts.

As a result of our choices, together, we've preserved nearly 46,000 acres through

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MALPF since 2007. In fact, according to MALPF, Maryland is #1 in the nation for preserving our farmland.

Across our State, a record 1,860 farmers chose to enroll in our cover crops initiative last year. Together, we planted more than 414,000 acres of cover crops last year to protect the Chesapeake Bay,... part of a total 1.89 million acres we've planted since 2007.

And thanks to your hard work and partnership, Maryland's farms are meeting – and even exceeding – our Bay milestone markers.

This progress isn't possible without your partnership. Creating jobs,...feeding our families,... ensuring that our kids and our grandkids don't one day look out over a parking lot and say,... "I remember when soy beans grew here." All of these things are possible because of you.

These are the choices which enable us to build together a stronger and better future,... the future that all of us prefer for our children: more job creation; more opportunity; a stronger, growing middle class. All while ensuring that our farmland stays farmland for generations to come.

In closing, the great American writer, Wendell Berry, said that quote "Good farmers, who take seriously their duties as stewards of Creation and of their land's inheritors,... contribute to the welfare of society in more ways than society usually acknowledges, or even knows. These farmers produce valuable goods, of course; but they also conserve soil, they conserve water, they conserve wildlife, they conserve open space, they conserve scenery."

Thank you, once again, for all that you do for the people of our State.



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Tags: [agriculture](#), [Buy Local](#), [dignity](#), [farms](#), [Maryland Agriculture Council](#), [opportunity](#)

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Service for Delegate Hattie Harrison

February 9th, 2013

Baltimore, MD

To Apostle Griner and to Apostle Gibbs, and all the distinguished clergy, to Delegate Harrison's fellow public servants from our federal, state, and city governments including Senator Cardin, former Senator Sarbanes, and current Congressman Sarbanes, Speaker Mike Busch, so many members of the General Assembly, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Council President Jack Young, to friends and family...

The great American mystic and Civil Rights activist, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel writes:

"When life is an answer, death is a home-coming:... the ultimate self-dedication to the divine. Death so understood will not be distorted by the craving for immortality, for this gift of giving away is reciprocity on man's part for God's gift of life. For the pious man (or woman,...), it is a privilege to die."

There is a lot of sadness today in this holy place. But there is also a lot of great music. And that music is a symbol of a feeling far more powerful than our sadness — it is the joy we feel in celebrating the life well-lived of Delegate Hattie Harrison.

To sons Skip and Phillip, to sister Luvenia, to Hattie's grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, I hope you feel some comfort in the presence of so many friends and neighbors who have gathered here today to honor your mom.

What can we say in such a short time about this powerful woman who — from a humble upbringing in South Carolina — became the longest serving African American female state legislator in the United States,...? There are so many organizations that she not only touched, but founded, and that continue to this day — the Eastside Democratic Organization, HEBAC, Harbor Bank,...to name just a few.

Think of the events she saw and shaped in her life-time. From Civil Rights, to the election and re-election of Barack Obama as President of the United States. Such was her love of life and its noble battles, that many of us believed Hattie was doing her very best to hang in there long enough to see a second Super Bowl win by her beloved Baltimore Ravens,...

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It's been said that "We must know how to learn from suffering,... we must know how to make use of it to gather the energy of compassion, of love, of understanding."

This was a truth that Hattie Harrison knew well,...

She knew the meaning of perseverance through hard times. Nothing was handed to her in life, and she took nothing for granted. But she thanked God for the gift of every single day. Her life of service echoed the words of the great Shirley Chisholm, who rightly said that, "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth."

Hattie committed her life's work to educating, elevating, and alleviating the suffering of others; renewing, rejuvenating, rebuilding,... leaving her mark all over our great city. Improving our schools and our streets. Strengthening our families and our communities. Always helping so many others along her way. Hattie Harrison left our City and our entire State a better and kinder place.

I have been reading a book by a man named Parker Palmer, who writes about the sort of leadership we need in order to heal "the heart of our democracy," and it seemed to describe the sort of leadership that Hattie practiced every day.

"By refusing to ignore the tension between (her) values and the pressures of politics, (she) held that tension patiently and reflectively as only the heart can do," as she constantly broke her own heart open — again, and again, and again — to the service of others and the discovery of new ways forward.

Thank you, Hattie,...

Rest well, my friend,...

"The battle is over; wear the crown,..."

Your living was not in vain.



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Tags: [dignity](#), [Hattie Harrison](#), [legend](#)

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Testimony for Off-shore Wind

February 13th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Chairman Middleton, thank you for your hard work to move off-shore wind forward in our State. To you, to Vice Chair Astle, to all the Members of the Committee:

It's an honor to have the opportunity to speak in support of a bill that will give more Marylanders the opportunity of a job.

Off-Shore wind would support 850 jobs during the construction period. It would allow us to create 160 permanent, good, local jobs once the turbines start spinning. And if we succeed in establishing Maryland as the regional manufacturing hub for wind turbines,... we will create and sustain even more good jobs.

This bill will also specifically help create jobs at businesses owned by minorities and women. Last year, for the first time ever, we exceeded our highest-in-the-nation goal for empowering women and minority-owned businesses. This bill would create a \$10 million fund to help us further empower these job-creators, as we harness Maryland's abundant source of off-shore wind.

This legislation is important to our jobs future, to our energy future, and therefore to our children's future.

I want to use the balance of my time to address three issues:

Why off-shore wind?

What are the potential impacts on consumers?

What impact will this have on our environment?

Why Off-shore Wind?

First, the question of "why off-shore wind?" The short answer is nature. Wind is one of Maryland's two most abundant natural resources. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates we could be generating 10,000 Mega watts off the coast of our State alone. That's enough energy to power every home in Maryland.

This bill would get the ball rolling with 200 megawatts.

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The other most abundant of our resources is the sun. The carve out you created for solar energy has created thousands of jobs, with thousands more to be created in the years ahead.

We can also create jobs by harnessing off-shore wind, but we have to act. Now is the best time, and our proximity to both our nation's capital and the mid-Atlantic coast give us a unique competitive advantage,... a unique opportunity to be a leaders in the creation of new jobs and the development of new renewable energy.

There are some who would say we should sit back and wait to let others figure this out.

But the question we have to ask ourselves is do we want to create jobs here in Maryland by being innovators, leaders, and producers? Economies of scale don't happen by themselves. They are created by the actions, intentions, and choices of people who choose to create a better future.

Potential Impact on Consumers

The next issue I want to address is the potential impact on consumers.

This bill has very specific consumer protections built in. No consumer will pay even a penny more on their energy bill until the turbines start spinning. The most optimistic estimate projects this at four years away.

Once the wind farm is built, you have drawn a very narrow strike zone, which holds down projected increases to at most \$1.50 per month for the average household.

However, our hope over the longer 20 to 30 year horizon is to stabilize and perhaps even reduce our families' energy bills. Unlike fossil fuels, wind energy carries a fixed, stable, affordable rate that we can lock-in over time.

Environmental Impact

Finally, the question of what this bill would mean for our environment.

Climate change is real. The severe weather we've seen in recent years is only going to become more severe, until we develop more renewable supplies of energy.

As you know, in Maryland, through the actions of this General Assembly, we've set aggressive goals to protect our environment. We have set the goal of increasing in-state renewable generation 20% by 2022. Thus far we're only at 6.7%. We also have set the goal of reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020. We're only at 5%.

Every megawatt-hour of wind we generate here in Maryland is a megawatt-hour we do not generate from imported fossil fuels. Fewer fossil fuels burned into our air means fewer moms and dads contracting lung disease and fewer children with asthma. By advancing this off-shore wind project, we have the opportunity to prevent as much as 7.5 million tons of climate change-causing pollution from being pumped into our atmosphere – just through this first phase of 200 megawatts.

Conclusion

If we believe that climate change is real, wind helps us make a 7.5 million tons

difference.

If we believe that fossil fuel prices will rise over the long term, then off-shore wind is a reasonable hedge against the rising costs that virtually all experts predict.

Finally, if we believe that new jobs are created by new innovations, then our leadership in harnessing off-shore wind will create these jobs here in Maryland.



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Tags: [clean energy](#), [energy](#), [environment](#), [innovation\](#), [jobs](#), [off-shore wind](#)

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Testimony to Repeal Capital Punishment

February 14th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Chairman Vallario, Vice-Chair Dumais, Members of the Committee:

As the Chief Executive of Baltimore City for 7 years, I watched our city become the most violent and addicted in America. I was very, very close to the pain, and suffering, and tragedy and was witness to horrendous crimes, violent crimes, murders, crimes against humanity, crimes against our children. Crimes that cried out for justice.

In the entire time that the City of the Baltimore had found itself slipping into the dubiousness of becoming the most violent and drug addicted city in America. The death penalty was on the books and did absolutely nothing to prevent these awful crimes.

With concerted effort—by doing the things that work—we drove down violent crime by 42% in Baltimore City. Not because of the death penalty, not because of great use of the death penalty, but by doing the things that work. Timely, accurate information shared by all, ComStat, direct deployment of resources, solving crimes, more effective prosecutions, better and more widely available drug- treatment,... all these things work.

Statewide we're also doing things that actually work to save lives – more effective policing, better technology, smarter strategies. And together with law enforcement, we've driven down violent crime and homicide to three decade lows.

As we consider whether to replace the death penalty with life without parole, there are three questions, to my mind, that we must address:

Does the death penalty work?

Is the death penalty an effective use of limited taxpayer dollars?

Is the death penalty consistent with our values?

Does the Death Penalty Work?

Especially in tough times, if a public policy is expensive and does not work, it would

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seem to me that we should stop doing it.

The death penalty is exactly that. It is expensive, and the overwhelming evidence tells us that it does not work.

In a 2009 study, 88% of criminologists said they do not believe the death penalty deters violent crime. A majority of police chiefs concurred in a separate study that year.

I am hard pressed to remember a single incident that ever took place in the city of Baltimore—a murder or attempted murder—where any of the perpetrators ever confessed or relayed that they paused for two seconds, because we had the death penalty, before they pulled the trigger.

In 2011, the average murder rate in states where there is a death penalty was 4.9 per 100,000 people. In states without it, the murder rate was lower. It was 4.1 per 100,000 people.

In 2008, our own Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment held hours of hearings, and considered days of testimony.

The Commission, chaired by former US Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, was near unanimous in reporting that quote “the administration of the death penalty clearly shows racial bias” end quote. They determined that no administrative fixes could end these disparities.

The Commission also found that, between 1995 and 2007, our State’s reversal rate for the death penalty was 80%. A recent New York Times editorial described this as “stunningly high.”

The Commission also found that the cost to taxpayers of pursuing a capital case in Maryland is three times as much as the cost of pursuing a non-death penalty homicide conviction.

And, the Commission found that for every 8.7 Americans sent to death row, there has been one innocent person exonerated.

Subsequent research tells us that between 2000 and 2011, an average of 5 death row inmates were exonerated every year.

There is no such thing as a guaranteed foolproof death penalty,... and there is no way to reverse a “mistake” if we execute an innocent person.

Taxpayer Dollars

Every dollar we throw at an ineffective, flawed, arbitrary death penalty, is a dollar we are not investing to prevent future murders.

Effective policing, the Violence Prevention Initiative, DNA collection, license plate readers, digital fingerprinting— these are all things work, to prevent crimes, to solve crimes, to reduce violent crimes and murders. Repealing Maryland’s death penalty could free up millions of dollars to allow us to do more of these things that actually work.

Our Values

Finally, across our ever-more-closely connected world, the majority of public executions now take place in just seven countries: Iran. Iraq. The People's Republic of China. North Korea. Saudi Arabia. Yemen. And the United States of America.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, our free and diverse Republic was not founded on fear, or on revenge, or on retribution. Freedom, justice, the dignity of every individual, equal rights before the law – these are the principals that define our character. They are the treasures of our great nation, and the death penalty is inconsistent with these principles.

The death penalty does not make us stronger or more secure as a people. Nor does the death penalty make our laws more effective or more just. Capital punishment is expensive, it does not work, and we should replace it with life without parole.



Tags: [capital punishment](#), [death penalty](#), [dignity](#), [family](#), [life](#)

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Washington Day

February 18th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Thank you President Miller. Thank you all very much,... what a great tradition this is – to gather year-after-year on Washington's birthday and reflect on the many things we can still learn from his legacy of leadership, service, and citizenship.

In so many ways, this man of modest words and powerfully eloquent action remains in our collective memory the Man/Superman of the American Revolution.

To borrow Norman Mailer's words, Washington was *"the existential hero — central to his time, a man whose personality might suggest contradictions and mysteries which would reach into the alienated circuits of the underground, because only a hero can capture the secret imagination of a people, and so be good for the vitality of a nation,... a hero embodies his time and is not so very much better than his time,... but he is larger than life, and so, capable of giving direction to the time,... able to encourage a nation to discover the deepest colors of its character,... a man who has lived with death..."*

One can only wonder what Washington would tell us if he were somehow able to join us today. I suppose he'd probably comment on the traffic congestion on 495. Getting here from Mt. Vernon, at this time of night, can be brutal. Even on a federal holiday like Washington's birthday.

I believe that Washington would warn us about a deeper type of congestion — of which our transportation woes are merely a symptom. I speak of the congestive failure that increasingly grips democracy's heart: that integrating, synthesizing center of our collective being as a people; the heart, whose function it is to sort through divisions, conflicts, and competing fears in order to hold the creative tension necessary to advance,... the common good.^[1]

Washington would remind us that we are One people.

He would tell us that we are all in this together. That each of us is needed.^[2]

He would state again the American truth that the stronger we make our country, the more she gives back to us, to our children and to our grandchildren. ^[3]

But he would warn us that the Spirit of the Revolution is in danger of being

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swallowed up by a spirit of hedonism. [4]

He would tell us that our country has a higher and larger purpose than securing gated communities for the few. [5]

He would lament the degree to which the ruling financial elite of our times had been allowed to risk bringing the whole country down in ruin for the sake of their personal profit and gain. [6]

He would lambast the divisions, and factions, and ultra-ideologies of these times which turn the public dialogue toxic and make principled compromise nearly impossible, ... [7]

Washington would challenge us to return to first principles. [8] To put consideration of the common good before consideration of personal gain. To understand that our personal economic security depends upon the well-being of our nation as a whole.

He would call upon us all to practice once again the habits of heart that allow us to see our own good in the common good we share with our neighbors; the habits of the heart that allow us to see the goodness of one another even in our disagreements.

And he would warn us that our ability to overcome our current difficulties depends first and foremost on our capacity to hold in our own hearts the best interests of our countrymen as a whole, [9] and to therefore act accordingly.

Washington — this man who lived with death, who knew betrayal, and loss, and bitter defeat — would tell us that the essence of our democracy is not found in the words of the Declaration of Independence or even in the structures ingeniously established by the Constitution, he would tell us that the tabernacle of democracy is in our own hearts, and there it must be reformed and made new, ...

And he would, of course, speak with the greatest authority. For advancing the common good of our new nation was the life's work of George Washington — first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

Conclusion

In reflecting back on his public service late in life, Washington wrote that *"In every act of my administration, I have sought the happiness of my fellow-citizens. My system for the attainment of this object has uniformly been to overlook all personal, local and partial considerations: to contemplate the United States, as one great whole, ... to consult only the substantial and permanent interests of our country."*

Prior to resigning his military commission in this very state house, he wrote a friend about his happy anticipation of being quote *"translated into a private Citizen."*

He capitalized the letter "C" in "Citizen" — a visible symbol of his contemplation in action; a symbol of the faith he placed in the goodness that must be found, and formed, in hearts of his countrymen.

Keeping in mind how far he had to come tonight through rush hour beltway traffic, let's make sure we don't let the old fella down.

Thank you.

[1] Father David Hollenbach of Boston College teaches that freedom and self-determination – a res publica – calls for *“a common life in which freedom is more fully shared, for a society in which all people more fully participate in the common goods that can be achieved in their social, political, and economic activity together.”* This, in a nutshell, was Washington’s governing philosophy.

[2] Washington led by example, choosing to cast a wide net in filling out his own Cabinet. People like Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson were diametrically opposed in philosophy. But Washington expected them to serve together in the spirit of advancing the common good. And he had very little patience for their infighting.

[3] Washington’s record says a lot about his philosophy in this regard: he invested in public enterprises like canals and roads. He proposed the creation of a national university. He was willing to make difficult choices about federal taxation in order to move our country forward, in order to stabilize our economy, and in order to prevent future generations from having to shoulder the financial burden of wars that had already been fought.

[4] Biographer John Ferling on Washington’s views: *“Unless this ‘avarice and thirst for gain’ was brought under control, it would inevitably destroy the gains realized through ‘the expense of blood and treasure’ during the four years of war. The spirit of hedonism had supplanted the spirit of 1776, threatening to ‘plunge everything’ into ‘one common ruin.’”*

[5] Washington’s governing philosophy is described well by Parker Palmer’s description of the founders: *“The founders believed that citizens who took advantage of that right to improve their own lot in life would turn around and use their gains to contribute to the common good.”* Palmer notes that *“Something happened on the way to the modern era. Many Americans seem to believe that this nation’s entire reason for being is to secure a self-contained private realm that we can pursue our own happiness without regard for the needs of others, even at their expense.”*

[6] In a letter to George Mason written in the spring of 1779, General Washington warned that quite a few high flying traders and speculators would just as soon, *“continue the War for their own private emolument, without considering that their avarice, and thirst for gain must plunge everything (including themselves) in one common Ruin,... preying upon the vitals of this great Country and putting everything to the utmost hazard.”*

[7] Washington held his fellow countrymen to the same high standard he had set for himself. He had very little tolerance for those who would put either private gain, personal squabbles, or partisan differences before the progress of all.

[8] In his letter to George Mason, Washington warned that the only hope is for the broader body politic to bring things back to our “common principles.”

[9] Washington would often warn against North-South factionalism, most famously in his farewell address.



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Tags: [citizenship](#), [dignity](#), [George Washington](#), [leadership](#), [opportunity](#), [Washington Day](#)

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School Breakfast Event at Eastport Elementary School

February 27th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Speaker Busch, thanks so very much for your leadership, your compassion and your commitment. I think Speaker Busch will agree with me when I say that whatever good we have been able to do as servants of the people of Maryland over these last several years has been a reflection of the goodness of the people we serve. When you ask the people of our State to make better choices, and you put out the options to them to either allow children to go hungry every day or to feed children, the people of Maryland will always choose the better choices. They'll always choose better results, and I think that's what we're so very blessed to be able to do, is to serve such a good people. There are not many states that have done more for kids, rather than less, in these recessionary times. So thank you, Speaker Bush and the community.

Leadership really matters. Principal Evans, thank you for your leadership at this great school. When we want to see examples whether it's the international baccalaureate program, or whether it's music in schools, you're your School Board are doing an outstanding job. Thank you for what you're doing to make Anne Arundel County such a great public school system.

Tom Nelson, thank you and everybody with Share Our Strength. And to Lillian Lowry, who is new to Maryland, she is an outstanding leader. She's done a great job in Delaware and she is going to take Maryland to the next level. So, Lillian thank you, for your passion and your commitment.

Members of the Maryland PTA are here, thank you for joining the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger, and a big thanks to Anne Sheridan, who is our Secretary of Children, Youth and Families. I want to thank Share Our Strength for the good training they provided her.

There are some big, important things that we can only do together, and one of those really big important things that we can only do together is educate our children. In Maryland we believe that we are pro-growth Americans, and by that I mean we believe in children growing stronger, growing healthier, growing ever more educated because stronger children make a stronger America.

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We share certain beliefs as Marylanders, for all our diversity, and most important of those beliefs is our belief in the dignity of every individual. That there is no such thing as a spare Marylander, or as a spare American, or as a spare child. And, therefore, there are certain reasonable expectations that we hope for one another for this place called Maryland, that flow from that belief. And those reasonable expectations are that our children deserve a healthy start, they deserve a decent home, they deserve a place to play where they don't have to dodge needles or bullets, and they deserve the ability to grow up free from the affliction of hunger.

In this common platform of ours called the State of Maryland, we have set 15 strategic goals. And among those strategic goals are creating jobs, improving public safety, improving public education. But one of those strategic goals is the eradication of childhood hunger in Maryland. And it is kind of senseless when we all generally can so easily fall into the trap of believing there is very little we can accomplish anymore together.

Maryland is a shining example of the fact that our best days are still in front of us.

When we set the goal several years ago for having the best public schools in America, there were people who said "Oh you shouldn't do that. What happens if you don't hit it?" Well, we said "But what if we do?" And they said "But what if you don't?" I said, "Well, what if we do?" [laughter]. And so we did.

If you believe you can or you believe you can't, you're probably right. For five years in a row, we've achieved the best public schools in America. Six years ago, we set the goal of reducing violent crime,...not treating it like the weather, something beyond our control.

Instead, we said "No, we're going to reduce violent crime by 20%". There were people, some of them wearing guns and badges and uniforms, very courageous people, who said, "Well, don't do that. What happens if you don't?" I said "What happens if we do?" They said "Well, don't set a goal, because what happens if we don't?" I said "What happens if we do?" [laughter]. And so we did.

We actually reduced violent crime together, even in a recession, when there were plenty of excuses about why crime should be going up. In Maryland, we drove violent crime down by over 24%. That's a lot of lives saved. That's a lot of parents spared from standing at a grave site of a child.

Last year, we reduced by 30% the number of juvenile homicides. So, setting goals is important. Measuring progress is important. Making better choices is the most important thing. But if we set goals, we measure progress openly, and continue to work together we can achieve big things that seemed impossible. Including big things, like eradicating childhood hunger from the United States of America. It happens one state at a time, and our State will be the first state.

This is why I believe that is true. In just six years we have increased by 60% the number of children eating breakfast in Maryland public schools. We have increased by 33% the number of children eating lunch. If you can find a stock anywhere on the NASDAQ that has improved its value by 60%, you should buy it. By 33%, you should buy it.

Measurable results. We have more than doubled the number of children we feed

each year through our Food Supplement Program. Measurable results. We nearly quadrupled the number of students receiving meals through our At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program. Better choices; better results. That's why we chose to increase and not to cut the dollars that allow us to expand the Maryland Meals for Achievement program.

With all of the dizzying numbers in front of you that have been given out from this great study, I think the most important one is found on page two, where it says that children who eat school breakfast on average, achieve math scores that are almost 20 % higher than children who don't get breakfast. So of all the innovations that we can implement, the one that squares the most with our heads and with our hearts is the one that affects a child's stomach. We can increase by 17 to 20% outcomes for our kids in school, simply by making sure that they are fed in the morning and have breakfast.

In conclusion, investing in education, investing in the most basic needs, and meeting those human needs of our children so they can grow up healthy and strong,... these are not just good things to do, these are essential things to do. They are logical things to do. They are reasonable, needed things that we must do with a deeper understanding, and with a greater love, and a greater appreciation of the connectedness of our shared humanity. Life is precious, every child matters. Thank you for your good work.



Tags: [childhood hunger](#), [Eastport Elementary School](#), [education](#), [protecting our children](#), [school breakfast](#), [share our strength](#)

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Testimony on the Firearms Safety Act of 2013 (House)

March 1st, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Chairman Vallario, Chairman Hammen, Vice-Chair Duma is, Vice-Chair Pendergrass, Members of the Committees:

Thank you for your consideration of the Firearms Safety Act of 2013,...

We are offering these proposals because every life matters.

There are things we can do together to save lives while also protecting the rights of law abiding citizens.

Comprehensive, Common Ground Approach

The common sense proposals we have put before you this session seek common ground.

We can – and should – protect the safety of our brave police officers, without infringing on the traditions of hunters.

We can – and should – ask for a license and basic safety training, without banning all handguns.

We can – and should – recognize that no one needs a military-style assault weapon to hunt for deer.

And we all can agree that upgrading the physical security of our schools is an investment worth making.

An overwhelming majority of Marylanders support the reforms you are considering for a reason. The police chiefs, faith leaders, advocates for public health, advocates for domestic violence victims,... the parents, the hunters that have come forward to endorse this legislation have chosen to do so for a reason:

These reforms are common sense. These reforms are comprehensive. These reforms are effective. And most importantly of all, these reforms just might save the lives of little boys and girls; of moms and dads and sisters and brothers,...

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By choosing to do things that work, together with law enforcement we are making very real progress to improve public safety and to save lives.

But we still have a long way to go. Guns still take the lives of too many of our fellow Marylanders. There is more we can and must do.

There are five basic components to the proposals we've put before you.

First, we are asking you to require a license and gun safety training in order to purchase a handgun.

Licensing keeps guns away from criminals and it saves lives.

In places where licensing is required, fewer guns make it into the hands criminals through "straw-purchases"—whereby, people buy guns only to hand them over to criminals, who then use these guns to kill or commit other crimes.

What's more, states that have similar licensing provisions to the ones you consider today have substantially lower gun death rates than states that do not.

Maybe this is why 85% of Marylanders support these provisions.

The proposals before you would ban the sale of military-style assault weapons. These military-style weapons are designed for our brave servicemen and women to use on the battlefield. They do not have a place on the streets or neighborhoods of Maryland.

Since the federal ban expired, at least 461 Americans have been killed by military-style assault weapons.^[i] Of these 461 Americans, at least 35 were police officers.^[ii]

The proposal before you would ban high capacity magazines with more than ten rounds. Today four states ban these high capacity magazines. These four states happen to among the states with the lowest rates of gun deaths.^[iii]

These proposals do more to keep guns away from people who have been determined to be dangerous to themselves or others as a result of mental illness. Nearly half of all mass shootings are perpetrated by individuals who are mentally ill.

With your vote, we can also improve mental health treatment and timely data sharing between public health and public safety.

Finally, in this year's capital budget, we're asking for your support to upgrade security at Maryland schools with expert advice,... and a \$25 million investment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the legislation we've put before you is comprehensive, common sense, and common ground,... and it will improve public safety.

We've made important progress, together. Since 2006, we have driven down violent crime by 24.4%, and we have saved 426 lives by driving down homicide. 426 families who have not been shaken by the murder of a loved one. 426. That's enough people not only to fill this 300-seat hearing room, but to pack the halls as well.

If we save even just one more life, it is as if we have saved the entire world.

I humbly ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you.

[i] According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and additional news sources, at least 461 Americans have been killed by assault weapons from September 22, 2004 through February 25, 2013. The federal assault weapons ban sunset September 13, 2004.

[ii] According the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, 35 police officers were killed in the line of duty by assault weapons from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2011. Data for 2012 will not be released until the summer of 2013.

[iii] According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence's 2011 Scorecards, four states ban high capacity (10 or more rounds) magazines: California, Hawaii, Massachusetts and New York. According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2010 (the most recent year of data available) Hawaii had the lowest age-adjusted gun death rate of all 50 states. Massachusetts had the 2nd lowest gun death rate, New York had the 4th lowest gun death rate and California had the 9th lowest.



Tags: [crime](#), [Firearms Safety Act of 2013](#), [guns](#), [house of delegates](#), [protecting our children](#), [protecting our families](#)

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Rally to Prevent Gun Violence

March 1st, 2013

Annapolis, MD

What a tremendous turnout today! Give yourselves a round of applause. I want to thank Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, I want to thank all of our faith leaders.

And especially I want to thank all of you, who bear the most important title of all in our State, and that is the title of Citizen.

We are not here only because of Newtown. We are here because of the loss of lives due to gun violence in all of OUR towns.

We are citizens, we are parents, we are neighbors, we are people of faith, we are people of hope, and we are people who believe that we can make tomorrow safer for our children. We can make this world a kinder and more loving and safer place for our children. We are here as Chiefs of Police, we are here as Clergy. We are here as hunters. We are here as advocates of public health. We are here as advocates for victims of domestic violence. We are here as Marylanders. We are here as children of one God who all share the same red blood of humanity that tells us every life is important.

And as Marylanders, we also believe that we have a legacy and we have a responsibility. And that legacy and that responsibility is to lead – to transform the pain, and the loss, and the tragedy. To take the tears that have run down our faces at grave sites from Baltimore, to Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. To transform the unspeakable loss of a person standing at the grave of a child, and to transform that loss and that pain into action that saves lives. To do the things that work to save lives.

There are 426 more people alive today in our state, because of the things we have done together over recent years to reduce violent crime.

Every life is important. Every life is precious. Our progress should not be a reason to sit back or pretend that somehow we can sleep on another man's wound.

The children that were lost in Newtown were our children. The children that are lost on the streets of Baltimore are our children. The lives that we can save tomorrow are also our children's lives.

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A great man named Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once wrote that “The mark of Cain in the face of man has come to overshadow the likeness of God,... Who is responsible?”

The proposals that you have come to rally around today – to rally in the spirit of unity and common ground and the spirit of love – are proposals that can save lives. They are proposals that would ban from our neighborhoods military assault weapons that are designed only for the battlefield.

In protecting the common good you seek with your neighbors — including those who may think differently than you do — to find common ground that says we can honor the traditions of hunters, while also protecting our police officers.

We can all agree that updating the safety of our school buildings is common sense.

Common ground that seeks to improve mental health treatment and information sharing. These are all things that we can count as common ground as a people. There are things that we know are common sense and they work. And if we come together in a spirit of respect for one another, we can transform the losses in Colorado, and Wisconsin, and Newtown, and here in our towns, into a positive, loving force of change and for saving lives.

We must overcome the sickness in our souls that is gun violence in America.

And we must overcome something else that Rabbi Heschel calls the “infamy of the soul” – the indifference to crime when it’s committed against others.

We are all one people, we are all One Maryland.

This is not a choice between our security and our freedom. This is a choice between whether we will be responsible, or whether we’ll be irresponsible. This is a choice between whether we give into that infamy in our souls, and whether or not we are indifferent to crime so as long as it’s committed against others. And whether, instead, we can summon up within ourselves that spark of the divine that says we are all one, that every life matters, and that every single person is important.

If we want better results, we have to make better choices.

I leave you with this prayer. “Lord, teach us to be generous; to serve as You deserve; to give and not count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to toil and not seek for rest; to labor and to ask for no reward, save to know that we do Your will.”

So let us act, and let us toil to save lives in this One Maryland.



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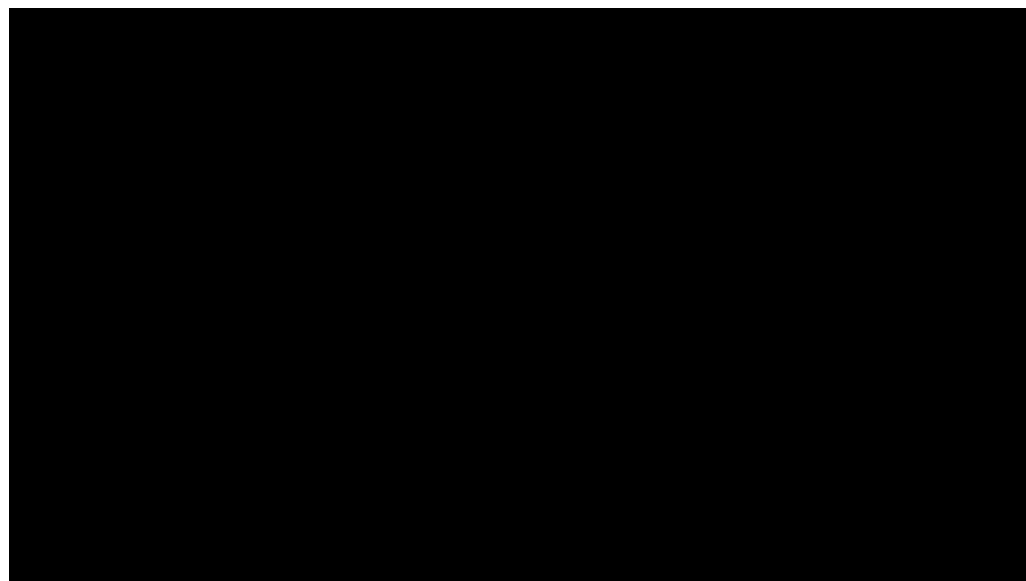
Transportation Press Conference

March 4th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Speaker Busch, President Miller thank you for your hard work and partnership.

Together after much work and compromise, the Speaker, the Senate President, and I have come together around a Transportation Initiative which we intend to pass this session.



Matt Gallagher has briefed you on the details of our joint proposal.

In keeping with our strategy of making both smarter cuts *and* smarter investments, this agreement is a balanced, fiscally responsible approach that is projected to support 44,000 jobs.

Our joint plan will generate the revenue we need to ease traffic congestion while building, rebuilding, and repairing our roads, bridges, and mass transit.

And this agreement will allow us to do these things without compromising our ability to protect core priorities like education, public safety, and public health.

If want better results, we must make better choices.

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Our population is growing larger at the same time our roads and bridges are growing older.

And yet, our transportation investments have been frozen in time since 1992. And inaction has had a huge cost: some of the worst traffic congestion in America. Traffic congestion costs Baltimore families \$1,781 each year in wasted gas, wasted time, wasted wear, tear and other expenses. And the worst traffic congestion in America costs Greater Washington families \$2,195 each year.

Building a 21st century transportation network won't happen by itself.

The balanced approach which the Speaker, the Senate President and I are submitting to the Maryland General Assembly is, we believe, our best way forward.

Let me turn things over to President Miller,...



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Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park & Byway

March 9th, 2013

Church Creek, MD

This has been a tremendous program hasn't it? Let's give it up to the New Revelations Baptist Church Choir, who warmed up this place for us. And how about let's give it up for B Company, the re-enactors for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment. And also our spiritual solo, Renna McKinney, who is outstanding. And our inspirational re-enactor Melissa Sparks, who did a great job.

Shortly, we are going to break ground just behind us, and I just had a couple of thoughts I wanted to share. I want to thank Mayor Jackson-Stanley for her leadership. I want to thank the Ross-Tubman family, who worked so very hard today to do this work of the heart that was required to make this day possible. I want to thank Secretary Salazar for your commitment, your work, and your love of this Chesapeake region. It has been a true honor to work with you on behalf of the people of Maryland, and to be able to work in such an historic and positive way with our great President Barack Obama. You've been awesome Ken, thanks so much for all you've done for us.

And above all, thanks to Harriet Ross Tubman, our "Moses," who really has brought us here today. It seems on this sunny day, that the geese have even come to settle here for a moment, doesn't it? In honor of Harriet Tubman, and to warm this free, cold land.

Fredrick Douglass once wrote to Harriet Tubman, "Much that you have done may seem improbable to those who do not know you as I know you."

What a tremendous individual,... tremendous feats of courage, and valor, and accomplishment. While none of us can know her in the same way that Fredrick Douglass and her contemporaries knew her, I think we all have a sense that her spirit is with us today. That spirit of heroism, that spirit of courage.

It was said of her that her tales of adventure are beyond anything in fiction, and her ingenuity and generalship are extraordinary, wrote the famous abolitionist leader Thomas Wentworth Higginson. With this praise, Higginson offered these chilling words of caution. He said, she has had a reward of twelve thousand dollars offered

Releases

for her in Maryland, and will probably be burned alive whenever she is caught, which she probably will be.

But she never was.

I was sharing with Secretary Salazar that on sunny weekends like this, my father would bring his boys to the Eastern Shore and we'd go to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge. And he would tell us also of Harriet Tubman. And as a little boy I remember trying to imagine the courage that it must have taken to escape as a slave. And I imagined as a little boy the courage it must have taken to come back again and again, not only for the people that she loved, but for people she had never known. I imagined as a little boy what sort of pain she must have experienced biting down on a bullet as they operated without any anesthesia on a wound on her skull. Such courage and such things for little boys and little girls to imagine in their hearts.

I leave you with the words of Samuel Allen from his poem "Harriet Tubman aka Moses."

He said:

By fire in heaven she was guided
saved by stream
and by water reed
by her terrible grimace of faith
beautiful and defiant,
Till the moment in the long journey
came the first faint glimpse
of the stars, the everlasting stars shining clear
over the free
cold
land.

Let us vow today together that we will tell her story again and again to generations and generations of little boys and girls who will carry her courage in their own hearts.

Thank you very much.



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Tags: [courage](#), [dignity](#), [harriet tubman](#), [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway](#), [state parks](#), [strength](#)

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Death Penalty Repeal Press Conference

March 15th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Thank you all. Thank you so very, very much for all of your hard work on this important issue that says so much about us, and an issue that many states have not yet been able to face full on with the sort of truth and the sort of understanding that the people of Maryland and the people of this General Assembly have fought for this issue.

So there are so many of you have worked hard on this issue, and there are so many people who have lost so very much that you've had to transform through this issue. And it is with a great deal of humility that I say "thank you" to all those who have worked so hard to accomplish this.

I want to thank Senator Lisa Gladden, Senator Jamie Raskin, Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, and Delegate Aisha Braveboy. I also want to thank County Executive Rushern Baker and his wife. You will hear shortly from Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. We also hear from the President of the biggest, baddest civil rights organization, the NAACP, Ben Jealous. And also Gerald Stansbury.

My friends, my neighbors, and my fellow citizens, to govern is to choose. And in a time where we understand the things that actually work to reduce violent crime,... when we understand how lives can be saved, we have a moral responsibility to do more of the things that work to save lives. And we also have a moral responsibility to stop doing the things that are wasteful, and that are expensive, and that do not work, and that do not save lives, and that I would argue run contrary to the deeper principles that unite us as Marylanders, as Americans, and as human beings.

Today, the Maryland General Assembly voted to repeal the death penalty in Maryland. And in so doing, we just released Maryland from the ranks of other places in this world – including Iraq, Iran, North Korea, and others – that still do commit public executions.

I want to thank so many people that did a lot of hard work all through this time. I want to thank those that served on the Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment, led by Benjamin Civiletti, some 5 years ago. That dialogue and that work and that

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understanding, and that ability to bring people together, so that all of us could talk openly and honestly and confront our fears, and also confront the truths that unite us,... was also a big part of what enabled us to get to this point.

So, moving forward, we have to make sure that we build on this progress by doing more of the things that work: the digital fingerprinting, the DNA technology, the better and smarter things in law enforcement that we can do to save lives.

Because in our State, we understand that there is no such thing as a spare American. Every single life is needed, and every single life is important. So let's continue to do more of the things that work, and thereby really do right by those who have gone before us,... those who have lost their lives to violent deaths,... that we remember their lives, and that we honor them – not by taking life, but by saving life.

Thank you.



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Tags: [capital punishment](#), [death penalty](#), [dignity](#), [equality](#), [justice](#)

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Veterans Full Employment Act Bill Signing

April 18th, 2013

April 17, 2013

Annapolis, MD

As we begin this signing ceremony, I would just like to ask all of us to take a moment of silence in solidarity for our neighbors and fellow citizens in Boston.

Thank you very, very much. We are so honored to have First Lady Michelle Obama come once again to Annapolis. And, Mrs. Obama, we in Maryland continue to look to your leadership and to your example. The passion that you have brought to the cause of our military families and their spouses, and their children – it is something that has truly been an inspiration. And I know that I speak for Mrs. O'Malley – I don't often do that [laughter] – but I can say safely that she's also very, very glad you're here. The work that you and Dr. Biden have done to inspire so many states to improve what we do in terms of welcoming our veterans back, making sure we remove the barriers to employment—and that's what we're here to do today.

So, I thank all of you for being here. And to the Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, thank you for being here, sir. And thank you for that great little school you run down the road [laughter]. I want to thank Speaker Mike Busch and Senate President Mike Miller. Thank you Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, the highest-ranking elected official to have served a tour of duty in Iraq, for the special sensitivity he's brought to this issue, as well as Stacy Mayer, David Stamper. And all the members of the Maryland General Assembly, Delegate Pete Hammen, Chairman De reck Davis, Senator Joan Carter Conway, Senator Uly Currie, Senator Doug Peters, Delegate Sonny Minnick. Also I want to thank Attorney General Gansler and Mayor Cohen for their presence here, as well.

We're here for one very important reason, and that is to do right by our veterans and our military families who have done so very, very much for us.

Just downstairs – in fact almost directly beneath where we're standing – George Washington resigned his commission and gave the authority of the peoples' army back to the representatives of the people. He was a man of very few words, but half of the words he spoke that day were about doing right by our veterans. And he challenged those members of Congress to do better for the men and women who put

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themselves in harm's way, and put on the uniform of the United States.

He talked about them, those veterans, as his family. And so, too, does our First Lady. She feels the struggles that they go through. She has met with so many of our servicemen and women. And these individuals should never come home – after overcoming all the barriers they have for us—be faced with barriers to employment, barriers to licensing, barriers that prevent them from keeping a roof over their children's heads and providing them with a loving home with economic security and dignity.

And so to all of you who have made this day possible, thank you for creating jobs and expanding opportunities for our veterans and our military families. This is not just the right thing to do for our veterans, it's also the essential thing that we must do for our State and for our country, because every single person, and every person's talent is needed in order to expand jobs and expand opportunities.

It's now my great honor to introduce to you former Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Andrew Hite.



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Tags: [First Lady Michelle Obama](#), [jobs](#), [veterans](#), [Veterans Full Employment Act](#)

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Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

April 25th, 2013

As prepared for delivery

Tel Aviv, Israel

Shalom,... Boker Tov. Good morning. Thank you very much for the opportunity to join you here at the Stock Exchange. I bring you greetings from your friends in Maryland. We have a group of business and university leaders with us. Together, we are working to strengthen the already strong business, cultural, academic, and diplomatic ties between the people of Israel and the people of Maryland.

By applause how many of you have family or friends in Maryland? This is my third visit to Israel, and during every visit I've been struck by how many people I meet who have a cousin in Baltimore or an uncle in Rockville.

The ties between Israel and Maryland go all the way back to the earliest days of modern Israeli statehood. The good ship Exodus set sail from the shores of Baltimore. It's fitting that so many years after this ship would embark on its mission to save lives, Maryland and Israeli researchers, scientists, and businesses would continue to work together to save lives.

In fact, in sector after sector, Israelis and Marylanders are partnering together on discoveries, cures, and technologies that are remaking the way we feed, fuel, and heal our planet.

I wanted to share with you a little bit about the work we are doing in Maryland to create jobs through innovation – and why we hope you will consider bringing your business to our State.

Innovation

Like the modern Israeli economy, Maryland's economy is an Innovation Economy. We have identified certain innovation sectors where we have the greatest competitive advantages. This tune will sound familiar to many of you, because they are sectors where Israeli businesses, scientists, and researchers are established global leaders.

One of these sectors is life sciences. I am told that Israel exports more healing per

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capita than any country on earth – a beautiful illustration of the higher principles of Tikkun Olam. This is quite an inspiration for us in Maryland, where we are known as the “home of the genome.”

Many of the 59 federal government facilities in our State are places of leading bioscience research and discovery – including the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration.

We're are also home to one of our country's two largest per capita clusters of biotech companies. Companies like Israel's own Teva Pharmaceuticals. Companies like MedImmune, where

Marylanders created the first no-needle H1N1 vaccine, which is easier to administer to children,...Companies likes Novavax, where Marylanders are producing the next generation flu vaccine that is able to adapt to changes in the strains of virus that can occur anywhere in the world,....

There are also major discoveries happening at our universities. At Johns Hopkins University, for example, Marylanders are working on the first synthetic dividing cell. At the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Dr. Robert Gallo is leading a team researching a promising new HIV vaccine.

Maryland also leads in space, aerospace and defense – as your colleagues at Elta can attest: they recently chose Maryland to house their U.S. operations. We are the home of NASA's Goddard Space Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Hubble Telescope, and Johns Hopkins' Applied Physics Lab.

As the home of America's Cyber Command and the National Institute of Standards & Technology, Maryland is our country's epicenter of Cyber Security.

And with America's 4th largest percentage of workers employed in green jobs, we're also putting a special priority on green technology and clean, renewable energy.

To support these sectors we've created targeted tax credits – including a credit I recently signed into law for cyber security. In addition, we're partnering with employers as well as NGOs and higher education to provide more workers with skills training.

We support innovation and education in Maryland by taking a balanced approach to budgeting. On one hand, we have cut more stand spending than any Administration in our State's history while protecting our Triple A Bond Rating.

We've balanced these reforms with modern investments in priorities like public schools, affordable higher education, and upgrades to our roads, bridges, school buildings, community colleges, hospitals, clean water infrastructure, and cyber infrastructure.

We choose this balanced approach because we believe in Maryland something that you believe in Israel: to create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments: innovating, education, and rebuilding for our children's future.

We believe something else as well: that to innovate in the private sector we also must be willing to innovate in the way we govern: setting public goals and measuring government performance on a weekly basis; eliminating and reforming pages of

regulations, fast tracking jobs projects; streamlining business licensing; creating public-private partnerships; reforming public education to reinvigorate education in the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and math.

These better choices have allowed us to deliver better results. For example: last year, Maryland ranked #1 in our region for job growth. For the last five years, America's leading education periodical has ranked Maryland public schools #1 best in America. Our country's national Chamber of Commerce ranks us #1 for innovation and entrepreneurship. We also rank #1 for affordable college. #1 for PHD scientists and engineers per capita. And we're #1 for research and development.

We are also in the Top 2 for science and technology and human capital capacity – the strength of our workforce.

Conclusion

As I close, I just wanted to share a few other reasons that Maryland is the ideal U.S. location for your business. Maryland is often nicknamed "America in Miniature" – and we are a very diverse State; diverse in geography, diverse in economy, diverse in people, diverse in culture.

We are home to Baltimore, one of America's great cities, and we are next door neighbors to Washington DC. Much of the city's professional and diplomatic community reside in our State.

We are close to all major international embassies and home to a growing number of foreign nationals.

We're only a quick train ride or flight to New York, Philadelphia, and Boston – and with two airports, multiple rail options and a worldclass port – we have the transportation infrastructure that allows businesses to create jobs and prosper.

Maryland is one of America's most vibrant centers of Jewish life, and we have a large community of Israeli residents already working in Maryland and participating in social and business networks.

In fact, I'm told that there is an apartment complex in Rockville that is home to so many Israeli families that it's known as "the Kibbutz." We are even home to a Hebrew language Tzofim. For these reasons, we are home to nearly 20 Israeli companies – and we hope yours will be next.

Todah Raba. Thank you very much.



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Celebration of New 50-Foot-Deep Berth and Supersized Cranes at Port of Baltimore

May 8th, 2013

As Prepared for Delivery

Baltimore, MD

Thank you, and thank you all for being here today.

A big thanks, especially, to our partners at Highstar Capital and Ports America for not only finishing this project, but finishing it a head of schedule.

Past and present

In its 300 year history, the Port of Baltimore has been the beating heart at the center of our State. It's connected our City with the rest of the country and with economies half a world away.

Everything from tobacco in the 18th century to cars and farm equipment in the 21st has come in and out of this port. It welcomed countless new Americans to our shores in the early 20th century. Now, it bids "Bon Voyage" to a quarter-million vacationers boarding cruise ships each year.

It's the port that built our City, and is continuing to build the Greatest City in America. Because our port has never seen a better day than today.

In 2012, we moved more cars, farm machinery, and construction equipment through Baltimore than to any other port in the country. We moved more imported sugar, aluminum and forest products arrive here than at any other port.

And out of 360 ports across the country, we're second for importing iron and exporting coal.

Those are rankings to be proud of, and to celebrate. But we also know that progress is a choice.

Relentless action

If we want to continue making progress, we have to relentlessly take action. Only

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through better choices can we continue to be leaders in job creation and in innovation and entrepreneurship.

That's why, a little more than three years ago, we stood here and announced an innovative partnership with Ports America. Today we're here to celebrate an important step in the fulfillment of that partnership.

You can all see the new addition to the Baltimore skyline here. Four cranes, each capable of lifting 187,000 pounds of cargo, 35 percent faster than the old cranes.

That means we're set up to break even more records in the coming years.

What's not quite so visible from where we're sitting is that we've made room for the supersized vessels of today's maritime industry. Ships that are expected to start making their way from Asian markets across the Pacific, through the expanded locks of the Panama Canal,...and up the East Coast of the United States.

We want those ships to come here. We want those ships to support jobs in our State, to give a boost to the moms and dads who work in and around the port. We want them to help make the businesses in Baltimore thrive.

All told, we anticipate 5,700 new jobs as a result of construction for port and highway improvements,...and from a more productive Port of Baltimore.

Our partnership with Ports America is a chance to build on our competitive strengths,... to create new jobs and expand opportunity.

Presentations

We're committed to seeing that vision through, and we're grateful to have partners like Christopher Lee next to us. With that gratitude in mind, I'd like to present Christopher with a replica of the Pride of Baltimore II.

The Pride of Baltimore clippers were built to remind us of our history, and the role that our port played in securing America her freedom during the War of 1812. It's appropriate that those helping us move our port forward have a token of that history.

Just like any good ship, we think our new hardworking cranes ought to have names of their own. And who better to name one after than our own Jim White, who has almost certainly done as much heavy lifting as those cranes will do.



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Tags: [crane](#), [exports](#), [foreign relations](#), [innovation](#), [Panama Canal](#), [Port of Baltimore](#), [public-private partnership](#), [trade](#)

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Future of Information Alliance

May 8th, 2013

As Prepared for Delivery

Annapolis, MD

Thank you Allison and Ira for making today possible,... welcome to Maryland's State House. To some of you this is a welcome back. Bryan Sivak, our recovering Chief Innovation Officer, now Chief Technology Officer at the federal Department of Health and Human Services, is with us. Zoe Pagonis, our former, rock star Director of Digital Strategy is on loan to us as well from the Democratic National Committee.

Special thanks to Vice President Pat O'Shea of the University of Maryland,... and to Neil Nidriksen and Mac MacLure of the Deutsch Foundation,...

"Big Data" is forever changing the way we manage, market, and move information and ideas. In states like Maryland it is also changing the way we govern. Better choices; better results.

Open Sourced Problems; Crowd Sourced Solutions

There is a wholesale shift going on now in public administration and governments across our country – and in fact, our world.

You see it coming up from American cities. New York showed the way — with Bill Bratton and Jack Maple pioneering the use of open data at the New York City Police Department. Timely accurate information shared by all, rapid deployment of resources, effective tactics and strategies, and relentless follow-up and assessment – we took these core tenets with us to the City of Baltimore and now the State of Maryland.

We set public goals. We relentlessly measure government performance on a weekly bases. We broadly share information rather than hoarding it – and we put it on the internet for all to see.

We open source and publicly identify our problems. And we crowd source the solutions with open access to data, available to all on the internet.

It's all made possible with Big Data.

Big data gives us the tools to deploy our strategic resources where the opportunities

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lie. We are now doing so, with a precision never before imagined.

We use a Public Safety Dashboard to integrate big data sets that cover things like criminal history, parole and probation, open warrants, motor vehicles, and gun registration.

We use a Workforce Dashboard to aggregate information and better understand why our citizens are unemployed and how we can best help put them in open jobs.

We use GIS smart maps to guide our efforts to restore the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

But this, admittedly is only scratching the surface of what is possible, and what will be possible. And so we created an “open data portal” – data.maryland.gov. Any citizen can access our Big Data to map it, chart it, or graph it. To use it to develop apps,... use it for commerce,...use it for education,... use it to “show me my house.”

GIS, smart maps, dashboards, these, modern tools have only been available to us relatively recently in human history. And they are game changers.

Conclusion

Ultimately, however, it still comes down to our own willingness to embrace change. There’s always a fear of sharing information openly. We become very comfortable in our silos. But the era of silos is giving way to a new era of connection.

You are all part of a movement away from the sort of leadership, managerial models of the past – in government, academia and business alike. It’s a movement away from ideological, hierarchal, bureaucratic models and toward information-age models that are fundamentally entrepreneurial, collaborative, relentlessly interactive and performance driven.

That’s a big shift. The common platforms make it possible, but people make it happen. You make it happen. People are now more powerful than their governments.

The hope of Big Data is Big Action, Life-saving action; the sort of intelligent actions that can save a City – that can save a planet

I very much look forward to seeing you at Government House tonight.



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Tags: [big data](#), [Future of Information Alliance](#), [innovation](#), [open data](#), [university of maryland](#)

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St. Mary's College of Maryland Commencement

May 11th, 2013

St. Mary's, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

President Urgo, Chairwoman Matthews, Congressman Hoyer, distinguished faculty, honored guests, graduates,... what a pleasure to share this happy occasion with all of you.

I love St. Mary's College. You can feel the history and sense the future as you walk these beautiful grounds. Centuries ago, this place was settled in the name of religious freedom. Today this college stands as a beacon of free thought and open discourse.

To the Class of 2013: congratulations,... you did it!

In a few moments, you will join a very select club. 86% of our world's people now have access to a mobile phone. But less than 7% have what you are about to receive: a college diploma. Less than 7 percent,...

Membership in this club is not free. And I'm not talking about tuition bills – I am talking about something deeper.

With your diploma comes a responsibility of individual leadership.

In our country, every citizen is needed.

And so, today, we commence.

Adversity Is Not Our Enemy

Our world is changing rapidly. Global economic instability. Nation-state failures. Global poverty. Global pandemic. Global migration. Global climate change. Global terror. Asymmetrical warfare.

In your lifetime, the population of our planet will nearly double.

And the scientists of our world assert with near unanimity that we are on the verge of burning up the atmosphere of our planet.

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Anyone who tries to tell you that these challenges are not real is either uninformed or not being honest with you.

At the same time, anyone who ignores the millions of reasons for optimism in this world, simply does not have their eyes open.

These things are not happening to us, they are happening for us.

Life is an ever evolving story of change and choice.

Every challenge holds the seed of opportunity.

Adversity is not our enemy.

Adversity is the catalyst of all progress.

And these are the most exciting of times to be alive.

Think: in a relative instant of human time we have gone from manned flight to men walking on the moon.

From human vaccine to human genome.

From telegraph to internet,...

And at the point of this ascending arrow always is the effort, imagination, and will of the individual human spirit.

Here at St. Mary's, consider the story of Peter Burnes from Montgomery County.

Peter lives with cerebral palsy. His legs require a wheel chair, his spirit knows no limits. His dad moved the family near campus to support his son's attainment of a degree. Together they have attended classes, cheered on the Seahawks, and participated in campus life together. Today Peter graduates —with honors.

There is also the story of Brittany Davis from Baltimore City. Brittany lost her father at a very young age. Her mother, Rosalyn, had to work hard to support her and each of her five siblings. Rosalyn had big dreams for her daughter. Expectations become behavior. The transition to St. Mary's was challenging. There have been starts, and stops. Struggles and breakthroughs. But Brittany returned to St. Mary's. And with a talent that inspires leadership in others — in a few moments — Brittany Davis will become the first member of her family to receive a college diploma.

These individual stories are also Maryland's story.

Maryland's response to adversity.

Maryland's history.

Maryland's future.

Innovation

You see, we here, in Maryland, have been placed at the center and the forefront of this journey of ours called the American Revolution.

It is not over.

It is ongoing.

Yesterday it was a revolution of muskets and bayonets.

Today it is a revolution of science, technology, healing, discovery, and innovation.

For the second year in a row, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce named Maryland the #1 state in America for innovation and entrepreneurship.

In labs, classrooms, and innovative companies throughout our State, Marylanders are revolutionizing the way we feed, fuel and heal our planet.

From Dr. Robert Gallo's work on an AIDS vaccine,... to the discovery taking flight at places like NASA/Goddard, the Applied Physics Lab, Aberdeen Proving Ground and NEANY, Inc. here in St. Mary's County.

From the cures and healing being developed at places like Medimmune and NIH,... to the Net Zero homes being built by Nexus Energy Homes in Frederick.

Last year, Maryland achieved the fastest rate of new job growth of any state in our region.

The life sciences. Bio-tech. Clean-tech. Green-tech. Information technology. Cyber security. Space and aerospace. Global trade. Advanced manufacturing.

As our challenges are big, so too must be our efforts, our leadership, our compassion for one another and the future our children will share.

And innovation is the key.

Innovation not only in science and technology, but innovation in art, and music.

The innovation that only conceptual, critical thinking can bring about.

The innovation that creates jobs by improving and accelerating the delivery of higher education and better skills to all of our people.

The job creating innovations that improve the health and security of our people and our homeland.

The innovation that creates jobs in clean energy and green design to improve the sustainability of our way of life.

The job creating innovations necessary to save humanity from the devastation of climate change and the massive loss of human life that it portends.

The innovation born of a deeper understanding of the relationship between our relationships.

Our relationships to one another, and our relationships to the other living systems of this planet.

A deeper understanding of the system-ness upon which all human life depends.

Forward Or Back?

The question is not whether we move left or right, but whether we move forward or back.

And no citizen has the option of escaping an answer.

Good intentions are important but good intentions are insufficient.

A new mindset is required for new action.

A new way of organizing human endeavor is needed.

In business, in government, in non-profit sectors — a new way of governing ourselves is required.

More open, more transparent, and more accountable even as it becomes more inclusive, more compelling, and more compassionate.

A new way that is, at once, ever more effective even as it becomes ever more personalized.

You are among the first born of this new Information Age.

Today, all across the globe, people are becoming more powerful than their governments.

People are becoming better connected than their governments, better informed.

A New Sort of Leadership

You are graduating at the threshold of a new era of American progress.

At your generation's fingertips are rising standards of living,...

Better educated children,...

More affordable college,...

A more highly skilled American workforce,...

Safer neighborhoods,...

A safer and more resilient Homeland,...

Healthier people,...

A more sustainable way of living,

Achieving this progress will require a different kind of leadership from each of you.

Your parents grew up in a time when leadership was ideological, hierarchical, and bureaucratic.

This new Information Age calls for a different way:

It calls for leadership that is entrepreneurial.

Leadership that is collaborative.

Leadership that is accountable, performance measured, and relentlessly interactive.

Leadership that creates common platforms to connect and empower individuals.

Leadership which is willing to open-source information in order to unlock individual community-based solutions – on a massive scale.

Leadership which understands the power of human dignity and the strength of our diversity.

And so, I leave you with this prayer:

“May the gift of leadership awaken in you as a vocation,... And keep you mindful of the Providence that calls you to serve,...

When the way is flat and dull in times of grey endurance, may your imagination continue to evoke horizons,...

May your work be infused with passion and creativity, and have the wisdom to balance compassion and challenge,...[And,] may integrity of soul be your first ideal, the source that will guide and bless your work.”

Congratulations, Class of 2013.



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Bill Signing

May 16th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you all very much,...

We're here to sign some bills which can be summed up in a word: "results." This session, we chose to move forward on a number of initiatives which have been proven to work and deliver results:

Results creating jobs and expanding middle class opportunity;

Results saving lives and improving public safety;

Results strengthening Maryland's workforce.

Better choices; better results.

Before we get to signing them, Mr. Speaker did you want to share a few thoughts? Mr. President,... Lt. Governor Brown,...

Bill Signing

First up is the Firearms Safety Act: a comprehensive approach to saving lives which includes common-sense licensing; a ban on the sale of enumerated, military style assault weapons and high capacity magazines with greater than 10 rounds; and better data sharing and protections in the mental health arena. We also invested through the budget to improve school safety and mental health services.

In working through this legislation with Speaker Busch, Delegate Dumais and the House workgroup that the Speaker assembled, and Chairman Frosh in the Senate, we looked to strategies that have been proven to work and deliver results.

States with similar licensing provisions, for example, have substantially lower gun death rates than states that do not. Better choices; better results.

A special word of thanks to all the members of law enforcement and criminal justice communities. And thanks as well to everyone from the public health, victims' advocates, and faith communities, along with so many other organizations and

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individual citizens – parents, hunters, civic leaders – who were a part of getting this bill passed.

We are extending the DNA Law with the same goal in mind: to save lives. Since 2007, we've used DNA to produce 545 arrests. Today we continue moving forward.

We are also signing new reforms to combat Human Trafficking. No longer will a defendant be able to assert that they did not know their victim's age as an excuse for trafficking a minor. In addition, we are removing bureaucratic obstacles that prevent law enforcement from seizing property used for human trafficking.

These public safety bills are designed to save lives. The Transportation Package we are signing will improve our quality of life and strengthen our Innovation Economy. It will create an estimated 57,200 jobs over these next six years, and inject \$4.4 billion into Maryland's economy.

President Miller and Speaker Busch put many hours of work into making this a reality – and they, along with their outstanding staffs, worked very closely with my team, led by Stacy Mayer and the soon-to-be-gone, but never forgotten Matt Gallagher.

Special thanks are also due to County Executive Leggett, Chairman Kasemeyer, Chairwoman Hixon, Delegate Frank Turner, and the members of the Budget & Tax and Ways & Means committees.

To create jobs and expand middle class opportunity in a 21st century Innovation Economy we need a 21st century infrastructure. We also need a stronger workforce.

Senator Pinsky's and Delegate Kaiser's work on the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 will help us advance toward our goal of getting 55% of Marylander adults (25 and older) an Associate's Degree or higher by 2025.

Let's sign some bills.



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Tags: [career readiness](#), [college readiness](#), [dna](#), [firearms](#), [guns](#), [human trafficking](#), [jobs](#), [Transportation](#)

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Governor's Conference on Combating Human Sex Trafficking

May 20th, 2013

Baltimore, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you so much Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, for your great leadership and for opening up your campus to us.

Today we've assembled quite a collection of public servants and leaders in the fight against human trafficking,...including U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein and the dedicated members of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force. Thank you for all of your work over the last six years.

Also with us are some leaders at the national level on these issues, and we're very glad to have them here to share their expertise with us.

Pam Cammarata from the Department of Justice, Aashika Damodar from the Office for Victims of Crime, Carolina De Los Rios from the Polaris Project, and Nancy Winston from Shared Hope International. Thank you all so much for being here.

There is no such thing as a spare Marylander, or a spare American. We are here because we believe in the dignity of every individual.

There are things we can do and must do to protect every child from abuse and exploitation.

Effective Tactics and Strategies

Sadly, human trafficking is a problem virtually everywhere in the world.

In Maryland, we're particularly vulnerable because of our geography and our infrastructure.

In fact, some of the things that make our State such an attractive place to live and work—our port, our airports, our railways and our interstates—are also things that make us a nexus for trafficking.

There are things we can and must do to fight back. And with common platforms, the latest technology, and your help—we are working across a number of fronts.

Releases

We have hired a Human Trafficking Intelligence Manager—and charged her with leading a unified front. Christine Rothlein is aggregating data from every part of our government—so we can “know what we know.” And using this information to lead a coordinated, effective, targeted attack.

We passed new laws—which we signed just last Thursday—during the last session to help our law enforcement bring traffickers to justice. And to give prosecutors more effective tools for securing convictions. Law enforcement agencies will be able to seize the property of these traffickers, as they already do in drug trafficking cases.

We're actively seeking out victims, rather than waiting for them to come to us. By mining “escort” websites, we've been able to save 17 child victims so far this year. Last year, we saved a total of 76 victims.

We're training our employees to ask better questions. This may sound simple, but it's critically important. Throughout our State government we have literally thousands of employees who come into contact with vulnerable children and their caretakers day after day after day. At the Department of Juvenile Services, we've already found 34 victims of trafficking through better screening and asking the right questions. We're implementing similar screening measures in the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Finding victims is the first step in saving kids from a life of exploitation. But it is only the first step. Once they are rescued, we are connecting them with things like mental health treatment and treatment for substance abuse—regardless of whether they happen to have health insurance.

Stories

By making these better choices, we are delivering better results. Results which are saving lives.

It's about a young girl found by an undercover agent in an Inner Harbor hotel in September of 2011. She was molested by her father and introduced to the underground world of sex trafficking by her sister.

She's now building a life in Maryland thanks to the partnership between the state and the Maryland-based nonprofit TurnAround, which is doing great work.

It's about a 19-year-old girl in Baltimore County. Investigators found her in a hotel in November, where she had been trafficked by a man she met online. She saw up to 20 customers a day.

After telling law enforcement her story, she said “The detectives treated me like a real person and it felt good to get everything off my chest.”

That's what we're dealing with. A crime so heinous that survivors are surprised and grateful to just be treated like humans.

Most of you in this room know many stories like this. It's very easy, when we talk about screening processes and data sharing and prosecutorial tools, to forget about those stories.

We have to remember that data is a tool. A tool that we can use to prevent stories

like this from being written.

In April, the good work of our Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, alongside the Annapolis Police Department, led to the convictions of two men who were living in our state illegally, and using violence and intimidation to prostitute woman.

The most sacred duty of any government is to promote the safety of our people.

And you all are doing that. We're making progress.

In the last six years, we've driven down female homicides by 18 percent.

To continue that progress, we've set a goal to reduce violent crimes against women and children by 25 percent by the end of 2018.

If we make better choices about how to use and share data, we will get better results for our most vulnerable people.

And one of the leaders in that effort has been Maryland's U.S. Attorney, Rod Rosenstein, who has a few words for us.



Tags: [children](#), [dignity](#), [human trafficking](#), [public safety](#), [women](#)

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Early College Innovation Fund

May 22nd, 2013

Kettering, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Principal Andrews,... Dr. Dukes,... this Academy is exactly what our State needs to be doing in order to make our children winners in this changing global economy.

Allowing Maryland students to obtain both their Associate's Degree and their high school diploma – all at once and in only four years,... getting our businesses more highly skilled workers in the high demand sector of health sciences,... expanding middle class opportunity,... promoting job creation,... sparing more Marylanders from tuition bills,... friends, this is a shining example of a public policy that works.

Maryland's economy is an Innovation Economy,... Prince George's Community College is an Innovation school,... and Prince George's County Public Schools are innovation leaders. Together we are collaborating to create jobs,... to expand opportunity,... and to strengthen and grow the ranks of Maryland's increasingly diverse and upwardly mobile middle class.

Skills

Early college is an important piece of our job creation puzzle. We want to bring the magic of this academy to counties throughout Maryland. And this session we created a new Early College Innovation Fund to do just that. It provides seed funding to school systems and partner institutions to help with the start-up costs associated with putting these academies together.

Better choices; better results.

It all comes back to jobs, opportunity and a stronger middle class. Maryland has built up one of the most highly skilled workforces in the country. But the reality is that too many of the new jobs being created in our new economy still go unfilled. Why? Because too many of our people lack the skills to fill them.

And so in addition to creating the Early College Innovation Fund, I signed legislation which makes it possible for low income students to take college classes for free.

We also passed the EARN Bill: employer-led skills training. We removed barriers to employment for Maryland veterans and military families.

[Releases](#)

We increased our investment in community colleges across Maryland.

We took action to help more students complete their college degrees.

And we invested to hold down tuition at our four year colleges and universities.

Goals and Progress

You might be familiar with the goals we've set to steer our ship of State forward.

We set a goal of improving student achievement and school, college and career readiness 25% by the end of 2015 – and we've already exceeded it.

We set the goal of increasing STEM degrees 40% by 2015. Today we're more than halfway there with a 25% increase since 2005-2006. We have also succeeded in increasing the number of teachers who teach STEM subjects in Maryland's classrooms by 22%. And 44% more of our students are passing AP exams (we've also increased the number of exams taken by 56%).

We set the goal of increasing the number of Marylanders who receive skills training by 20% by the end of 2018. Since FY2010 we've achieved a 17.4% increase so we are well on our way.

The progress you are achieving at this Academy is making a difference toward our pursuit of all these goals – and toward goal number #1: job creation.

Keep up the good work!



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Tags: [Academy of Health Sciences](#), [college affordability](#), [early college](#), [innovation](#), [opportunity](#), [Prince George's Community College](#)

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Center for American Progress: Better Choices for a Stronger Middle Class

May 30th, 2013

Washington D.C.

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you Neera. And thank you for the important work you do here at the Center for American Progress.

It's great to join Hector Figueroa, President of 32BJ SEIU.

We're here today to talk about the better choices we can make together in order to strengthen our middle class, and expand middle class opportunity.

And we do so at a time of widespread and understandable anxiety.

America's middle class hasn't had a raise in thirteen years. Today, upward economic mobility – as you point out in your report – is lower in the United States than virtually any other highly developed country on earth.^[i]

Although Maryland is ranked as one of the three states with the most economic mobility^[ii], no state has been immune from the poor economic choices we've made as a nation over the last 30 years.

Trickle-down economics has been an abject failure for 99% of Americans.

If we want to deliver better results – if we want to strengthen our middle class and expand middle class opportunity – then we have to be willing to make better choices.

In Maryland, we have implemented many of the policy suggestions that you outline in your report – and they are delivering better results: better results for a stronger middle class.

Better Results

Progress is a choice.

This year, for the second year in a row, the US Chamber of Commerce ranked Maryland #1 in innovation and entrepreneurship. ^[iii]

Releases

We rank #1 in median income;[\[iv\]](#)

#1 in per capita research and development;[\[v\]](#)

#1 in PHD researchers and scientists[\[vi\]](#),...

#1 in women-owned business;[\[vii\]](#)...

... and while it had never happened before, Education Week Magazine has now ranked Maryland #1 in public education for an unprecedented five years in a row.[\[viii\]](#)

Last year we had the fastest rate of private sector job growth in our region.[\[ix\]](#)

These are the better results that have flowed from the better choices we have made together as a people.

I want to share with you, briefly, the story of how.

To Strengthen and Grow...

When Lt. Governor Brown and I took office in January 2007, Maryland was coming off of the same sort of “never-mind-the-math” decision-making that got our country into its current fiscal and economic predicaments. Too many of our public schools were underperforming.[\[x\]](#) Our State was facing a future of ever deepening structural deficits.[\[xi\]](#) Crime was rising outside the City of Baltimore.[\[xii\]](#) And college tuition for Maryland families had been jacked up 40%.[\[xiii\]](#)

Our campaign was all about making better choices to strengthen and grow Maryland’s middle class. And from the first days of this Administration, that overarching goal has remained the north star of every decision we make.

In year one, we took the following actions:

We passed the nation’s first living wage law.[\[xiv\]](#)

We reformed Maryland’s tax code to make it more progressive – lowering income taxes for 86% of Marylanders.[\[xv\]](#)

We increased our State’s Earned Income Tax credit to better reward hard work.[\[xvi\]](#)

We expanded access to health care for vulnerable children and their families.[\[xvii\]](#)

And we made tough choices to cut spending, reduce the size of our state government,[\[xviii\]](#) and secure new revenues to improve public education.[\[xix\]](#)

Then, just as we started climbing our way out of an inherited \$1.7 billion deficit, the Bush recession hit.

As hard-working families across our country lost jobs and homes, revenues dried up in every state.

States with Republican governors generally tried to cut their way to prosperity. Most found this only made things worse. Eliminating the jobs of police officers,[\[xx\]](#) firefighters, and teachers at a scale rarely seen.[\[xxi\]](#) Cutting public education.[\[xxii\]](#) Hiking up college tuition by double digits every year.[\[xxiii\]](#) Continuing down the merry

path of cutting taxes for the very wealthy, hoping against cruel experience that somehow it would trickle down to the rest of us.[\[xxiv\]](#)

Better Choices: A Balanced Approach

In Maryland, we made different and better choices. We applied a balanced approach of cuts, revenues, reforms, and investments.

Our decisions were guided by three economic truths:

1. There is no progress without a job.
2. There is no job creation without fiscal responsibility.
3. To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments: educating, innovating, and rebuilding for a stronger middle class.

We have cut more spending than ever before in our State's history.[\[xxv\]](#) And we have also invested more in public education, innovation,[\[xxvi\]](#) and infrastructure[\[xxvii\]](#) than ever before in our State's history.

We have used the pressure of sinking revenues to make government more efficient and effective. We have further targeted our limited resources on policies that work and deliver results. Policies that make a stronger, growing middle class. Policies which have created jobs and expanded opportunity to more of our people.

We are one of only nine states that maintains a Triple A bond rating.[\[xxviii\]](#)

In these difficult times, we have put ourselves on the verge of eliminating the massive state deficit we were left by our predecessors.[\[xxix\]](#)

Better Choices: Educate

We believe that a stronger workforce makes a stronger economy.

We have invested more in education, not less.[\[xxx\]](#)

We are reinvigorating Career & Technology Education.[\[xxxi\]](#)

We've worked with labor to expand skills training initiatives.[\[xxxii\]](#)

We are making employer-led skills training the new way of workforce development (with smarter, more effective state support).[\[xxxiii\]](#)

And – to make college more affordable for more middle class families — we are the only State to freeze in-state tuition four years in a row. In fact, the College Board says that since 2007, Maryland has done more than any other state to hold down the cost of college tuition.[\[xxxiv\]](#)

What's more, we've improved student achievement and interest in the STEM disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Today, more of our students take and pass AP exams in these disciplines than ever before.[\[xxxv\]](#)

We have better aligned our Community College requirements with our four year universities.[\[xxxvi\]](#)

And, we are redesigning college courses to accelerate degree attainment.[\[xxxvii\]](#)

(All because, education and skills training create more opportunity for more middle class families.)

Better Choices: Innovate

In Maryland, we understand that jobs in emerging innovation sectors tend to pay more and offer more upward mobility.

We have targeted both the skills-pipeline and the investment pipeline in the life sciences, bio-tech, clean-tech, green-tech, cyber security, information technology, space & aerospace, global trade, and advanced manufacturing.

We've created and expanded targeted tax credits to create jobs in these sectors[xxxviii] – while also keeping down the overall tax burden on business in Maryland to 7th lowest in the nation.[xxxix]

We've used our State's leverage to raise and attract more venture capital for job creation in Maryland's innovation economy. [xli]

We've brought together state universities and business to spark greater and faster technology transfer.

We've created incubators in sectors like cyber security and bio-technology. [xlii]

We've partnered with companies like Knorr Brake in Western Maryland to keep and create advanced manufacturing jobs in Maryland.

We've also taken action to strengthen our health sciences sector. We have created a common platform of Health IT to bring down the cost of care, while increasing wellness and the quality of care. [xlii]

We have chosen to be an early implementer of the Affordable Care Act. [xliii]

(All of these actions create jobs. All expand opportunity. And therefore, all strengthen Maryland's middle class).

Better Choices: Rebuild

To create more jobs and expand middle class opportunity, we have invested more, not less, to modernize the infrastructure of our state's economy.

With an historic Public-Private Partnership, we created thousands of new jobs by modernizing and expanding the Port of Baltimore to accommodate the larger ships coming thru the widened Panama Canal. [xliv]

We have invested more rather than less to upgrade and improve our clean water infrastructure. [xlv]

With President Obama's support we are connecting every county in Maryland with robust broadband– the first state in America that can make that claim. [xlvi]

And, during our most recent legislative session, we made the tough choices necessary to repair, refurbish, and rebuild Maryland's roads, bridges, and mass transit. These transportation investments will create 57,200 new jobs over the next several years. [xlvii]

Better Choices: Dignity

The better choices we've made in Maryland go beyond the budget. We believe that equal rights, inclusion, diversity, an open society, respect for the dignity of every individual – these things make Maryland a more innovative and creative place for business and job creation.

On the other hand, things like inequality, discrimination, exclusivity, intolerance, disparity and division – these things weaken the potential of our creative economy.

In Maryland, we passed a state-level DREAM Act.^[xlviii]

We passed civil marriage equality.^[xlix]

We expanded early childhood education in order to close the achievement gaps between white and minority students.^[i]

We created health enterprise zones to improve quality and access to care in underserved communities.^[ii]

We made it easier for citizens to vote, not harder.^[lii]

And last year, for the first time ever, we surpassed the nation's most ambitious inclusion goal for women and minority-owned businesses.^[liii]

Meanwhile, with unprecedented state, local, and federal collaboration,... with smarter policing and more effective tactics and strategies,... we have now driven violent crime down to three decade lows.^[liv]

These, too, are the better choices that strengthen our middle class, that expand middle class opportunity.

Conclusion

If there is a single noble motivation that we all share as American moms and dads, it is the drive we have to give our children a safer and better life – a life with more opportunity; not less.

We are willing to work very hard to make that dream a reality; but we also want accountability from our government, respect from our employers, and the peace of mind that our hard work will be rewarded in the lives of our children.

Our parents' generation grew accustomed to a way of leadership that was ideological,... hierarchical,... and bureaucratic.

But the ideology of the past no longer serves the challenges of these rapidly changing times. Our children demand and deserve a new way of leadership that is entrepreneurial,... collaborative,... relentlessly interactive,... and measured always by whether or not we are achieving better results.

It's not about whether we move left or right; it's about whether we move forward or back.

For a stronger middle class, in Maryland, we choose to move forward.

I look forward to the discussion ahead,...

[i] The United States has less upward economic mobility than almost every other member of the OECD including Canada, Germany, Japan, Spain France, and Switzerland according to research by Miles Corak of the University of Ottawa. For example, Canadian workers have more than double the economic mobility as American workers.

[ii] Maryland is among the three states in the nation with the most economic mobility according to a study by the [Pew Center](#). Pew measures economic mobility three ways: absolute mobility (residents' average earnings growth over time), relative mobility (residents' rank on the earnings ladder relative to their peers), and upward or downward mobility (movement along the earnings ladder). Maryland, along with New Jersey and New York had better mobility than the national average for all three measures.

[iii] The US Chamber of Commerce, hardly a mouthpiece for the O'Malley-Brown Administration, ranked Maryland #1 for the second year in a row for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in their 2013 *Enterprising States* report. The Chamber also ranked Maryland in the Top Ten for Economic Performance for the fourth year in a row.

[iv] Maryland's family median income is \$83,823- the highest in the nation according to the 2011 American Community Survey.

[v] Maryland receives the most federal research and development dollars per capita in the nation according to the [Milken Institute](#). Research and development investments in Maryland are over 40% greater than that of second-place New Mexico's.

[vi] According to the National Science Foundation and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Maryland has the most employed PhD scientists and engineers per 100,000 employed workers of any state in the nation.

[vii] One-third of all businesses in Maryland are owned by a woman- the country's highest percentage. While work remains to be done, Maryland's wage gap is the second lowest in the nation and 12% lower than the national average according to the [American Association of University Women](#) and the 2011 American Community Survey.

[viii] In 2012, [Education Week](#) ranked Maryland's public schools #1 in the nation for the 5th consecutive year. Maryland received perfect scores in Early-Childhood Education and Economy and Workforce.

[ix] In the first quarter of 2012, Maryland's businesses created 18,400 jobs at the fastest rate in the region and the 9th fastest rate in the nation. Maryland's dynamic private sector created jobs more than four times as fast as Virginia's private sector.

[x] In 2006, only 60% of Maryland's middle school students scored proficient or advanced in math; less than 70% scored proficient or advanced in reading. Last year, a record 76% of our middle school students passed their math exam and 82%

passed their reading exam.

[xi] [xi] In 2007, the State faced a \$1.7 billion structural deficit, a result of \$1 billion in income tax cuts in the late 1990's, \$1.5 billion in increased education spending starting in 2002, and four years of insufficient action to close the deficit from 2002 to 2006.

[xii] [xii] From 1999 to 2006, the hardworking men and women of Baltimore City's law enforcement drove down violent crime 42%. During that same period, violent crime rose statewide (excluding Baltimore City) 16%.

[xiii] The cost of [in-state tuition](#) at the University of Maryland-College Park increased 37% from \$4,800 in FY2003 to \$6,566 in FY2007.

[xiv] In 2007, Maryland became the first state in the nation to pass a 'Living Wage' law requiring government contractors to pay their employees wages higher than the minimum wage. The Act set two wage tiers differentiating between workers in urban areas with higher living costs and those in rural areas with lower living costs. The bill was first passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2004 but vetoed by then-Governor Robert Ehrlich.

[xv] We have taken several actions to make our tax code more progressive by asking more of higher earners while providing tax relief for middle and lower earners. In 2007, new income tax rates were established for higher earners while their personal exemptions were decreased. At the same time, middle and lower earners saw both their personal exemptions and their refundable earned income credits expand providing tax relief for 86% of Maryland taxpayers. In 2008, a three year income tax surcharge was imposed on millionaires. In 2012's Special Session we further adjusted rates phasing out exemptions for higher earners. These changes impacted only the top 13.7% of Maryland tax payers.

[xvi] In 2007, Governor O'Malley expanded the refundable earned income credit to 25% of the federal credit and expanded to program to include workers without children. In 2010, to help Maryland families weather the economic recession,

[xvii] In the just over six years (January 2007-April 2013), the O'Malley-Brown Administration has expanded health care coverage to nearly 385,000 previously uninsured Marylanders, nearly half of them children. The State is on track to reach its goal of 400,000 insured by the end of 2013.

[xviii] Since taking office, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has reduced the size of state government by eliminating more than 5,738 positions through FY2014.

[xix] In FY2007, only 69 cents of every General Fund dollar went to education and health care. In 2007, the State Sales tax was increased by one cent on the dollar to increase investment in education and health care. Today, Marylanders pay the 8th lowest sales tax in the nation according to the Tax Foundation and 72 cents of every General Fund dollar goes to education and health care.

[xx] In 2011, Camden, New Jersey cut their police department nearly in half laying off 163 officers bringing the size of the department down to its 1949 level. Despite its high homicide rate, Flint, Michigan laid off two-thirds of their police force from 2009 through 2011. On a typical Saturday night in 2011, Flint had only six patrolmen on

duty according to a report by the US Department of Justice [Office of Community Oriented Policing Services](#).

[xxi] More than 300,000 teachers lost their jobs from the end of the recession to July 2012 according to a [2012 White House report](#). (This is in stark contrast to previous recession recoveries; following previous recessions, local public education was a source of job creation.) As a result of these layoffs, the average student-teacher ratio increased 4.6% from 2008 to 2010 rolling back all of the gains made since 2000. The economy is also affected by such drastic public sector layoffs; if governments still employed the same percentage of the work force as they did in 2009, the unemployment rate would be a percentage point lower, according to an analysis by [Moody's Analytics](#).

[xxii] The majority of states decreased per-student spending from FY2008 to FY2013. Maryland, by contrast, increased per-student spending by 7.4% during that time- the third highest increase in the nation according to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#).

[xxiii] From the 2010-2011 school year to the 2011-2012 school year, several states made [double-digit increases](#) to the cost of public higher education. For example, California increased in-state tuition and fees 20.5%, Arizona increased in-state tuition and fees 16.8%, Georgia increased in-state tuition and fees 15.9%, Washington increased in-state tuition and fees 15.7% and Nevada increased in-state tuition and fees 13.7%.

[xxiv] In 2012, [Kansas voted to cut the income tax rate](#) for the state's top earners and eliminate income taxes on the self-employed. To balance their budget, Kansas plans to make over \$800 million in cuts to education and social services spending by 2014.

[xxv] The FY2014 budget cuts spending by \$366 M bringing the O'Malley-Brown Administration's seven-year total to a record \$8.3 billion in cuts.

[xxvi] The FY2014 budget includes record investments in our biotechnology, research & development, film and new cybertechnology tax credits. We are doubling support for cancer research at our State's academic health centers and investing more than \$10 million in Stem Cell Research bringing the O'Malley-Brown Administration's seven-year investment to \$97 million. Last year we launched the Maryland Innovation Initiative to increase technology transfer out of our research universities and into our economy and raised a higher-than-estimated \$84 million to invest in early stage companies through InvestMaryland.

[xxvii] The O'Malley-Brown Administration has invested a record \$2.4 billion in school construction in seven years. This Administration has invested more annually, on average, in school construction than any Administration in Maryland's history. In our second term, we have invested \$356 million annually, on average, in school construction compared to \$211 million annually, on average, under the previous administration.

[xxviii] Maryland's AAA bond rating was reaffirmed by all three bond rating agencies last July. Maryland is one of only 9 states to earn a Triple A Bond Rating, certified by all three rating agencies.

[xxix] The FY2014 budget reduces the structural deficit by \$318 million (17% of the FY2012 structural deficit). In the past three years we have closed the deficit by \$1.656 billion or 91%.

[xxx] The FY2014 budget invests a record \$6 billion in K-12 education.

[xxxi] The FY2014 budget creates a \$2 million Early College Innovation Fund to support an expansion of early college access programs that provide accelerated pathways for students seeking career and technical education or training in science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines. MSDE will make competitive grants from the fund to partnerships of local school systems and higher education institutions that are formed to create early college high schools or other forms of early college access.

[xxxii] Since FY2009, we've increased [skills training completions](#) in Maryland more than 17%. Last year more than 42,800 Marylanders completed a skills training program such as a for-credit certificate awarded by a community college, a CTE program at one of our public schools, or an occupational skills training program available to TANF recipients.

[xxxiii] In April, Governor O'Malley signed the Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) Act investing \$2.5 million in workforce collaborations between businesses, local government and non-profits. Provided through a competitive grant process, funding will be invest primarily in the job-creating sectors of construction, traditional and advanced manufacturing, cyber and healthcare.

[xxxiv] Alone among the 50 states, Maryland froze in-state tuition at state colleges and universities four years in a row and has held tuition increases to the lowest in the nation for over five years according to [The College Board](#).

[xxxv] In 2012, Maryland students took and passed a record number of AP STEM exams. Maryland students passed over 19,000 AP STEM exams- a 44% increase over 2006.

[xxxvi] On May 16, 2013, Governor O'Malley signed the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 making it easier for students to transfer credits from community colleges to four-year institutions for credit toward a Bachelor's Degree.

[xxxvii] The FY2014 budget invests in course-redesign efforts in the University System of Maryland (USM). Redesigned courses can improve course completion rates ultimately improving retention and graduation rates and reducing overall tuition costs. This is particularly important for large introductory level courses that may face varied academic preparedness and levels of student retention of material, a lack of student engagement and a lack of coordination among professors teaching numerous sections. Course redesign includes on-line and hybrid courses as well as the development of innovative software to enhance management learning systems. USM also plans to expand its MOOCs.

[xxxviii] The FY2014 budget invests record funding in our Biotechnology, Research & Development, and Film Tax Credits. The budget also creates a new \$3 million Cybersecurity Investment Tax Credit ensuring Maryland, home to the National Cyber Center of Excellence, remains a leader in cybersecurity.

[xxxix] According to a recent study by the Anderson Economic Group, Maryland's businesses have the 2nd lowest tax burden in the region and the 7th lowest in the nation. Our businesses' tax burden is 22% lower than the national average.

[xl] Through an online tax credit auction on March 15, *InvestMaryland* raised \$84 million in venture capital for Maryland businesses. Those dollars can be leveraged up to 5 to 10 times that amount in private equity dollars, or roughly \$350 – \$700 million.

[xli] Maryland is home to 28 business and technology incubators- up from just 21 in 2007.

[xlii] In February 2012, Maryland became the first state in the nation to implement a [Health Information Exchange](#) connecting all 46 acute care hospitals in Maryland through a live VPN connection.

[xliii] In December 2012, Maryland was among the first six states in the nation to receive conditional approval to operate a state-based [health insurance exchange](#) beginning in 2014.

[xliv] In June 2012, four new cranes, the largest of their kind in the maritime industry were delivered to the Port of Baltimore as part of the new \$100 million 50-foot berth being built under the O'Malley-Brown Administration' public-private partnership with Ports America Chesapeake. The cranes are 400 feet tall with the boom at its tip, can reach 22 containers across on a container ship, and lift 187,300 pounds of cargo. Being fully electric they will emit no diesel emissions. Construction of the new berth supported 3,000 jobs. The berth will support another 2,700 jobs when it becomes operational.

[xlv] The FY2014 budget invests a record \$31.5 million in projects to restore and protect the Bay through the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund. Governor O'Malley's capital budget invests more than \$36 million in storm water and other non-point source pollution control projects. And again this year, we chose to fully fund our cover crop program- one of our most effective Bay restoration programs.

[xlvi] In 2010, our One Maryland Broadband Network (a partnership of public and private agencies across the state) secured more than [\\$115 million](#) in competitive federal grant funds to extend broadband to rural and underserved communities across the state. The Governor's capital budget this year includes \$11 million to complete construction of our network. To date, we've built 1,040 miles of fiber connecting 791 anchor institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.). The project is expected to be completed by August 31, 2013; at that time, over 1,000 community anchors will be connected. While a few other states are building broadband networks, Maryland will be the first state to connect *every* county on a public broadband network.

[xlvii] In the 2013 Legislative Session, the O'Malley-Brown Administration worked with the General Assembly to pass the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013. The initiative will generate \$4.4 billion over the next six years for transportation projects across Maryland, create more than 57,200 jobs and improve Marylanders' quality of life by reducing congestions.

[xlviii] In 2011, the General Assembly passed and Governor O'Malley signed

Maryland's DREAM Act. Last November, Maryland became the first state in the nation to pass the DREAM Act by popular vote when Maryland voters approved the referendum 59-41. The DREAM Act enabled undocumented immigrants who meet certain requirements to pay in-state tuition at Maryland's public universities, colleges and community colleges. In Maryland, an estimated 36,000 DREAMers will benefit from the law creating more than 19,000 jobs and generating nearly \$5 billion in economic activity by 2030.

[xlix] Last year, Maryland became the first state in the nation to approve marriage equality by popular vote. Same-sex couples could begin marrying in Maryland on January 1st of this year. Previously, in 2010, Maryland began recognizing same-sex marriages performed in states that permit same-sex marriages following an opinion issued by Attorney General Gansler.

[i] Last Fall, 82% of Maryland kindergarteners entered school fully ready compared to less than half (49%) in 2001. To continue to better prepare our children for school, we've increased the number of accredited early education programs and family child care homes from just 120 in 2002 to 970 in 2012.

[ii] In January, Maryland designated its first five health enterprise zones to bring medical services to disadvantaged neighborhoods. The program will offer tax breaks and other incentives to attract physicians and community medical groups to the areas. The four-year, \$16 million pilot project was approved by the General Assembly in 2012 and focuses on neighborhoods in Baltimore City, Annapolis, Capital Heights (Prince George's County), Greater Lexington Park (St. Mary's County) and Dorchester and Caroline Counties.

[iii] On May 2, 2013, Governor O'Malley signed legislation expanding the days, hours and locations for early voting and allowing same-day voter registration. Additional legislation also enabled voters to apply online for an absentee ballot.

[iii] Governor O'Malley set a goal of 25% MBE participation in Maryland- the most ambitious MBE participation goal in the country according to the [Insight Center for Community Economic Development](#). In FY2012, MBE participation reached a record 25.2% exceeding the State's goal for the first time. As a result, the O'Malley-Brown Administration proposed and the General Assembly passed an increase to the MBE program goal from 25 to 29 percent beginning in FY2014. Our new aspirational goal will offer more opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses to engage in state contracting.

[liv] Together with the men and women of Maryland's law enforcement, we drove down violent crime 24.4% in 2011 compared to 2006 to a 34-year low.

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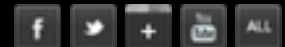
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Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) Press Conference

June 12th, 2013

Baltimore, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Mark.

MAPCorp has done really great work training your employees on the job, and would be able to do much more of that through the EARN Act.

Thank you all for being here today. Mayor Rawlings-Blake, who has one of the best jobs out there, it's great to stand here with you.

And a special word of thanks to Senator Kathy Klausmeier, Delegate John Olszewski, Delegate Keiffer Mitchell, and Delegate Luke Clippinger.

We wouldn't be here today without their work to make this new law a reality. And they are actually so dedicated to the cause that they are currently all at a national EARN conference – looking for new opportunities to get more Marylanders the skills2compete.

Bridging the Gap

We're here to talk about jobs, opportunity, and a stronger, growing middle class.

There is no progress without a job – and ultimately, our greatest assets for job creation are the talents and skills of our people.

Maryland has built up one of the most highly skilled workforces in the country. We have the nation's most PHD scientists and researchers per capita. We have done more to hold down tuition at our states colleges and universities than any other state. Working together, we've helped our lower-income students achieve the greatest improvement in student achievement anywhere in America. And for an unprecedented five years in a row, we've built America's #1 best public school system.

Better choices; better results.

But the reality is that too many of the new jobs being created in our new economy

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still go unfilled. Why? Because too many of our people lack the skills to fill them.

Employer-led skills training

We launched Skills2Compete to fill this gap.

One of our most promising initiatives is the EARN Act, which I signed last month.

Through EARN, the state invests in employer-led skills training initiatives in some of our most high-demand sectors: construction, advanced manufacturing, cyber security, and wellness.

These skills trainings are offered free-of-charge to Marylanders looking to obtain new skills and the good jobs which utilize them.

Business and industry, four-year colleges, community colleges, local workforce investment boards, local government, state government, worker training providers—all of us have a role to play. EARN brings together all these stakeholders on a common platform.

The most important investment we can make as a State is in our most precious resource—our people. Working together, we can ensure that our companies and our workforce have what they need to compete and win in the New Economy.



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Tags: [baltimore city](#), [EARN](#), [job training](#), [jobs](#), [MAPCorp](#), [Moving Maryland Forward](#), [skills training](#)

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FETA War of 1812 Conference

June 13th, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Thank you all very very much — it is a great honor to be here with all of you. And I should begin by welcoming all of you who have come here from Canada and all of you who have come here from Britain. This is an exciting day. I love this building. You can feel the history here, can't you?

To our friends who are here from Britain, please note that we have always kept a little candle burning in the window for you. All is forgiven. Bill Pencek, thank you for the good work that you have done to commemorate these two years. There may be other parts of the country where they can call this the forgotten war, not here.

I want to thank all of our partners in this effort. AT&T, Constellation, Papa John's to name a few of the big ones.

I want to thank the conference committee for bringing together such a rich collection of scholars and of experts. And those who have kept alive the spirit of the War of 1812 and certainly the lessons that we have learned. Hopefully from every conflict we learn lessons that help us create a better future.

I especially want to thank my troops, my men from Fort McHenry. Ladies and gentlemen, good to see you again. I want to thank Vince [Vaise] because he got me tricked out in a great Sam Smith uniform. And Sam Smith, in case some of you weren't aware, was the defender of Baltimore. He was a United States Senator who also served as mayor.

So every Wednesday, I would go to the Board of Estimates to do the public contracts for the city of Baltimore. Among the 60 some portraits that were all staring at me, from behind me actually, was Sam smith. Sam had my back, so I have always felt a certain affinity to Sam Smith and I want to thank the great staff at the park service for what they do at Fort McHenry.

You know in Maryland our oldest holiday is Defender's Day. We were commemorating and celebrating Defenders Day actually I think before we were commemorating and celebrating the Fourth of July as a national holiday. In Baltimore, it was Defender's day. So in Maryland the War of 1812 has never been a forgotten war, far from it. That is when we stepped up as a State; that is when we stepped up as a City. And for that reason we have always remembered this conflict.

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At the center of the seal of the City of Baltimore, a city that I like to humbly and accurately refer to as the Greatest City in America, is the battle monument that honors those who died and those that fought in the defense of Baltimore. It was, I am told, at the time somewhat of a unique monument because it was constructed out there in the middle of what I think John Quincy Adams would go on to dub the monumental city. That monument was built to the citizen soldiers. Not to the presiding or commanding general, but to the citizen soldiers.

If you look closely at some of the flags that adorn the public buildings here in our State this year, as you roll by you will notice that those are star spangled banners. They are 15 stripes and 15 stars and that is in solidarity with this bicentennial celebration.

One of the great ambassadors of our State is the pride of Baltimore II. Which is a reproduction of the Baltimore Clippers that were built by the private citizens of our State. Clippers, many of which served to keep sea lanes open and also sometimes closing them off.

Maryland is very proud to be the leader in the international bicentennial celebration and if you walk around Annapolis you see some of the historical markers and banners, if they haven't been rolled up in anticipation of the storm that is expected to arrive today.

This group especially has an appreciation of just how tangible the past is here. June 1813, 200 years ago we would be sitting in the shadow of Fort Severn that was built on this spot in anticipation of the war. Just up the road, William Barney, son of commodore Joshua Barney, coordinated the watch of British fleet at the Chesapeake from high up top of the dome which would have been one of the more magnificent and very tall structures of its day. You know all of these stories, many of you far better than I do, but we hold them close here in Maryland.

We remember this war so well partly, I think, because we saw so much of the action and so much of the destruction and so much of this war happening up and down the shores of the Chesapeake. From the raid of Havre de Grace to the Battle of Bladensburg which some of us have referred to as the Bladensburg races. We took it on the chin here in Maryland, but we also managed to keep our head up.

We managed to get up off the mat, not because it was easy but because it was hard. Almost everyone else had given up, but we had the foresight, or the hubris if you will, to actually commission that giant Star Spangled Banner in anticipation of raising it above the victorious ramparts of Fort McHenry.

Baltimoreans could see the glow of the flames from the South when our nation's capital, Washington D.C. had been burned. British general Robert Ross declared, "I will dine tonight in Baltimore," because even then we had great restaurants. He said, quote "I will dine tonight in Baltimore or in hell."

From many people — many different people — came the defense of Baltimore. Which I think also is a great lesson for us to bring forward in these times of xenophobia and apprehensions right now in our country. According to the great War of 1812 scholar Scott Shields, 50 percent of the defenders of Baltimore were either immigrants or the sons and daughters of immigrants. One out of every five of the

defenders, including some uniformed U.S. Army soldiers inside the fort, were African American citizens fighting for a still very imperfect country.

This war is where the hands of many also came together quite literally in order to stitch that flag. Among Mary Pickersgill's busy house, were not only her own daughters that were sewing that flag, but a 13 year old African American servant girl named Grace Wisher also helped. I often think of that image, of black and white hands sewing together the strands of the star spangled banner.

And the common thread, I would submit to you, that held those stars and stripes together was the thread of human dignity. The dignity of work, the dignity of home, the dignity of neighbors helping neighbors, the dignity of neighbors defending neighbors, the dignity of every individual.

This is our story; this is a story worthy of a great people. It's a story of struggle, it's a story of defeat, it's a story that has its fair share of shame and also ultimately its pride. The pride that in fact we are all in this together and that freedom and responsibility are intertwined and that the most sacred responsibility that we have is to be willing to lay down our lives in order to protect that which our neighbors and our children find most valuable and that is their own freedom. Thank you very very much.



Tags: [Defender's Day](#), [history](#), [legacy](#), [War of 1812](#)

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Genuine Progress Indicators Conference

June 14th, 2013

Baltimore, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you Cylvia (Hayes),... and thank you all for joining us. A special word of appreciation to Lew Daly of Demos and Stuart Clarke of the Town Creek Foundation for making today possible.

It is a special honor to be joined by Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, whose work continues to inspire our action in Maryland.

We have at least 18 states represented here today.

This movement is growing,...and to achieve Genuine Progress, we need to expand this awareness to more states. I'd love to host all 50 here someday. We also have to deepen our own public understanding and use of GPI in states where we profess to have embraced it. We can only change the national dialogue with meaningful, state-level action.

In many ways, we Marylanders, think of ourselves as pro-growth Americans — and before you get “wiggly” about that term, let me explain: Like you, we believe in growing jobs and growing opportunity. Like you, we believe in children growing healthy, growing educated, and growing strong. We believe in grandparents growing old with dignity and with love. We believe in growing trees, growing sustainable Bay fisheries, growing food locally to feed our citizens. And we believe in growing prosperity for every generation.

But not all growth is good.

If we are going to solve the great engineering challenges to humankind,.....if we are going to move from economies of global depletion to economies of local regeneration:

We must be willing to make better choices. And we must embrace a new, more entrepreneurial, more collaborative, more performance-driven style of leadership.

It's somehow appropriate that we would meet just across the street from Inner

Releases

Harbor – where there is some great shopping – hint, hint. If you will close your eyes for a moment, imagine being here in 1814. Washington has been burned to the ground and British General Robert Ross has declared “I am going to march on Baltimore and dine there” – because even then we had great restaurants – “and then I’m going to burn it to the ground.”

Well, the people of Baltimore had something else planned. Against the overwhelming “shock and awe” force of its own day, we stood firm. The Star Spangled Banner — the giant flag that was hoisted over Ft. McHenry as the British guns finally fell silent — was stitched together by black and white hands. The common thread was the thread of human dignity: the dignity of home, the dignity of work, the dignity of every individual.

Genuine Progress

“Genuine progress,” like the Star Spangled Banner, consists of many strands and stripes and a constellation of stars – all part of one whole.

No one stripe or one star makes a full flag – unless you happen to live in Texas.

We choose to use the tool of a Genuine Progress Indicator, because no one benchmark, no one measure, no one indicator paints a full picture of a city, state or country’s progress.

We would not be satisfied if we opened up our kids’ report card only to find a grade in just one subject.

GDP is an important measure, but it cannot be the only measure. It’s a decent test of our country’s cholesterol, yes. But we still need to know about our blood pressure, blood sugar, heart rate, and so forth.

Our country’s GDP has doubled over the last three decades. Yet, things like income inequality,... middle class opportunity,... the amount of poisonous carbon pumped into our atmosphere: these graphs simply aren’t moving in the right direction.

What does GDP tell us about pollution being pumped into our air or flushed into our waters?

What does it tell us about how many little boys are dealing drugs on street corners? Or how many little girls have to dodge hypodermic needles in their playgrounds?

What does it tell us about how much harder moms and dads are working, only to bring less home in their paychecks?

What does it tell us about the time we lose with our families, stuck in traffic?

What does it tell us about the quality of our poetry? The sounds of our music? The grace of our art?

What does it tell us about the progress we are – or are not – making in confronting the greatest challenge to human existence on this planet since the threat of nuclear annihilation?

GDP tells us what we are producing. But it totally neglects what we are using up. There is a difference between income – which is fleeting – and wealth, which is

lasting.

To make genuine progress, we must be willing to adopt a more holistic definition of progress itself. To seek an honest assessment of whether our graphs are moving in the right direction – or in the wrong one.

A system without feedback eventually fails. And our country, our states, our cities – they are all systems. Life creates the conditions that are conducive to life. Period. Full stop. Perhaps, there is no better description of the intent of GPI. Its purpose is to further the conditions that are conducive to life.

A New Sort of Leadership

Things that get measured are things that get done. The ultimate test of any public policy is whether it works. Spare me your ideology. Does this work for me and my family? That's the question we seek to answer by measuring all these separate but connected indicators.

It is a question not of whether we are moving our states left or right, but whether we are moving forward or back.

In this search for answers, this new Information Age has given us the ability to measure Genuine Progress with insight and accuracy never before dreamed of. But acting upon this intelligence will require all of us to embrace a new type of leadership.

Ideological, hierarchal, bureaucratic leadership – these are the old ways of organizing human endeavor.

Our times call for leadership that is entrepreneurial. Collaborative. Accountable. Performance measured. Relentlessly inter-active.

Leadership which is willing to open-source information in order to unlock individual community-based solutions – on a massive scale.

Leadership which understands the power of human dignity and the strength of our diversity.

How We Govern in Maryland

This is how we govern in Maryland.

With greater collaboration than ever before, we are using technology to create common platforms,... facilitating and coordinating and catalyzing thousands of individually responsible actions. Actions that advance the common good of genuine progress and prosperity for all.

It is impossible to steer or speed a ship without a compass or controls. Therefore, we set public goals,... we measure government performance and on a weekly basis,... and we put our findings online for all to see.

We set the goal of recovering 100% of the jobs Maryland lost during the Bush recession. And to date we've recovered 91%.

We set the goal of planting 355,000 acres of Bay-saving cover crops last year. And

in fact, our farmers planted more than 413,000 – beating our goal by nearly 17% if you're keeping score at home.

We set the goal of saving lives by driving down infant mortality 10%. We exceeded that goal – driving it down 16%. Now, we've set a new goal of driving down infant mortality another 10% by 2017.

We also set the goal of reducing Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions 25% by 2020. And to date, frankly, we've made insufficient progress. Right now we're only at 5%.

By setting goals and measuring performance, we are essentially asking the timeless human questions of "Where are we going?" And "How do we know we're getting there?"

It's for this very reason that we choose to integrate GPI into our decision-making.

We first put Maryland's Indicator together in 2010.

In these years since, we've continued to combine 26 performance measures spanning economic, social, and environmental progress. We measure the value of higher education. The cost of crime. Income inequality. The cost of ozone depletion. The value of volunteer work – and dozens of additional indicators.

Today, we are further integrating the GPI into our decision making across the board.

And, we've formed a new partnership with Demos and TownCreek to take this to the next level.

As you do the same in your own states, we are very interested in learning from you and collaborating with you.

Conclusion

We have within our power as states, as communities, as individuals, the ability to achieve rising standards of living,...Better educated children,...More affordable college,...A more highly skilled American workforce,... Safer neighborhoods,...A safer and more resilient Homeland,...Healthier people,...A more sustainable balance with nature.

But this will not happen on its own.

Changing a culture takes time. And it isn't easy. We have so much that we can learn from one another. If we are truly going to shift the dialogue away from a GDP-centric conversation, and to a more holistic one – none of us can do it alone.

Thank you all very much.



Tags: [Genuine Progress Indicator](#), [innovation](#), [Moving Maryland Forward](#), [progress](#)

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We the People: Remarks to the American Constitution Society

June 15th, 2013

Washington DC

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you all very much,...

A special word of welcome to those of you visiting from out of town. I have a sacred constitutional duty as Governor of Maryland that I am here to fulfill. You are hereby cordially invited to visit us across the Potomac. Please feel free to invest in our local economy.

I want to introduce a member of my staff who is with us today. Cassie Motz serves as my Deputy Chief of Staff. You may know her mom, Judge Diana Gribbon Motz of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Or her dad, Judge Frederick Motz, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

It's great to be here with all of you. Although, I must confess you invited the wrong member of the O'Malley household. My wife, Judge Katie O'Malley is the superior legal mind in our family.

Of my six brothers and sisters, four of us became attorneys, including myself. We all wanted to be just like our dad. To us he was Atticus Finch. Like him, we wanted to be able to stand up for people who otherwise wouldn't have a voice.

In that sense, perhaps you could call this organization the "Atticus Finch Society."

By applause how many of you have seen the Gregory Peck movie? How many have read To Kill A Mockingbird. How many, like the O'Malley brothers, were inspired by Atticus Finch to study law?

Atticus Finch was a lone voice for justice in a sea of reactionaries. Sound familiar? America needs the American Constitution Society.

The Common Good

As members of this organization, you recognize that any conversation about justice must begin with the common good.

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Each of us has a role to play— whether we’re working through the courts, the congress, or in our own communities, our own cities, our own states.

There are some – particularly those who happen to identify with the Federalist Society – who would argue that government is never a part of the answer.

We might ask them, what then is the question?

Because if the question is how to create jobs,... how to strengthen our country’s middle class,... how to create greater freedom, opportunity, and justice for all,... then a working and effective government is an indispensable and essential part of the answer.

How can we hope to make our society and our laws more just if our government no longer functions properly?

How can we hope to enforce the law, if we cannot pick-up the trash?

How can we hope for equal protection under the law when our own Congress can’t get over the obstructions of a minority faction of Tea Party ideologues?

And by the same note,...

How can we be expected to increase citizen engagement when decisions like Crawford v. Marion County Election Board open the floodgates for anti-voting measures in states across our country?

How can we protect the principle of one person, one vote, when Citizens United makes it easier for Governor Scott Walker to outspend his opponent 8-1 in Wisconsin?

What the Federalist Society is doing in our courts, the Tea-Party is doing in our state houses and in our Congress.

Rather than expanding rights they seek to restrict them.

Rather than expanding opportunity they seek to constrict it; and

Rather than strengthening our middle class, they seek to concentrate wealth and power for the top 1%.

This is what happens when we allow the far right wing to stack any of our institutions.

They gerrymander right wing districts and intimidate law-abiding citizens out of voting.

They flood political campaigns with unlimited corporate cash.

They create all sorts of special interest loopholes, and send our jobs to China.

And they use the power of their elected offices to dismantle our government. How?
Two ways – and they are related:

First they use the false guise of “tax cuts for all” – which really means millionaires and billionaires – to starve government of revenues.

Second, they drive up deficits in hope that they can scare us out of making any common sense investments in priorities like education, innovation, or rebuilding America's crumbling infrastructure.

Now, let's give credit where credit is due. They've been very effective at this.

But in the process, they've managed to halt middle class progress for the first time in American history.

Economic mobility is now lower in the United States than virtually any other highly developed country on Earth. The ladder of opportunity has been pulled up for millions of middle class Americans.

You and I understand that if there is no way out of poverty for our poorest neighbors, there is no way forward for the middle class.

And if there is no way forward for the middle class, then the success of our American experiment has come to an end.

That's where their choices would take us. And that's exactly why we need all of you to be a part of a new movement.

A movement that asks not whether a policy is left or right but whether it moves our country forward or back.

A movement that recognizes that the fundamental question about any public policy is "does it work?"

A movement that calls for leadership that is entrepreneurial.

Leadership that is collaborative.

Leadership that is accountable, performance measured, and relentlessly interactive.

Leadership that creates common platforms to connect and empower individuals.

Leadership which understands the power of human dignity and the strength of our diversity.

Maryland

This how we do things in Maryland.

We recognize in our State that things like equal rights, inclusion, diversity, an open society, respect for the dignity of every individual –these things make our State a more innovative and creative place for business and job creation.

On the other hand, things like inequality, discrimination, exclusivity, intolerance, disparity and division – these things weaken the potential of our creative economy.

And so we've nominated a record high percentage of women to the state bench, and awarded state contracts to a record percentage of women and minority-owned businesses.

We passed the DREAM Act and did more than any other state to hold down the cost of college tuition.

We made record investments in public education and drove down the achievement gaps between white and minority students.

We listened when our nonpartisan Commission on Capital Punishment told us that the death penalty does not work and cannot be administered without racial bias.

And we abolished it and replaced it with the less-expensive alternative of life without parole.

We took action to expand substance abuse treatment,... we invested more to better serve Maryland's homeless,... we worked together to drive down infant mortality,... and we fed thousands of hungry children in pursuit of the goal we set for eradicating childhood hunger.

And we passed a civil marriage equality bill and successfully defended it at the ballot. Our message focused on human dignity and the idea that we all want the same thing for our kids: to live in a loving, stable, committed home protected equally under the law.

We're anxious to see if the Supreme Court will vote to finally end federal discrimination against gay and lesbian citizens.

On the issue of voting rights: other states have used *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board* as a cudgel. They passed new laws like photo-ID requirements – and we all know what these laws are really all about: deterring lower income Americans from voting. Keeping racial minorities away from the polls. Creating obstacles for Americans living with disabilities and seniors. Suppressing turnout among Democratic-leaning constituencies.

In Maryland, we made better choices. Instead of making voting harder, we made it easier. We let our citizens register to vote online. We made same-day registration available during early voting. We offered early voting on more days, at more locations, and for longer hours. And, we made it easier for citizens to vote-by-mail thru absentee balloting.

Opponents of our efforts to enfranchise more Marylanders did not even attempt to go to referendum on these reforms – understanding that public opinion is overwhelmingly on the side of making it easier to vote.

What's more, Maryland's Tea-Partiers were unable to obtain the necessary signatures to petition either our new gun violence prevention law or our capital punishment repeal to the ballot.

Conclusion

Ultimately, all these efforts come back to the belief we share in our own responsibility to advance the common good.

The late Judge Learned Hand, wrote that “a society so riven that the spirit of moderation is gone, no court can save,... a society where that spirit flourishes, no court need save,...[and] a society which evades its responsibility by thrusting upon the courts the nurture of that spirit, that spirit in the end will perish.”

We the People have generations of creative, healing, life-giving work in front of us. And We need the work of the American Constitution Society to fulfill our destiny.

Thank you all very much.



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Tags: [American Constitution Society](#), [dignity](#), [equality](#), [jobs](#), [leadership](#), [progress](#)

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Waging Peace: 50th Anniversary of President Kennedy's Visit to Ireland

June 19th, 2013

Dublin, Ireland

Thank you very much. A daoine usaile. Thank you Secretary General Cooney for your very kind introduction.

Distinguished Members, Deputies, Senators. Mr. Tubridy who wrote that outstanding book on the Kennedy visit — I enjoyed every page. Distinguished Members of the Press, members of the Kennedy family, Ambassador and Mrs. Rooney, Ambassador Jeanne Kennedy Smith, Ambassador Michael Collins, Congressman Patrick Kennedy,... the women and men who form the core of Ireland, and the young people who hold its future — I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the chance to speak here today.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh,...

Introduction

When John F. Kennedy came here fifty years ago, he shook this country's soul out.

He drove around in an open-top car and addressed the Irish people with an open heart,... he even defied the rain.

He asked his listeners keep a sense of hope alive in the expectation, and the belief, that it would triumph.

Oppression covered half the world. A hunger gnawed at so many places.

Nuclear weapons put the very existence of human life on this planet in jeopardy.

The world's climate had begun to cough.

And yet there is always a yet.

He had recently offered the world a new strategy for peace — a peace that could save human life on this planet from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

At American University in Washington, he said, "our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet, breathe the same air and cherish our children's

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future.”

At the Berlin Wall, he spoke of “peace with freedom.”

And here in Dublin, he talked of an Irish destiny: a vision of an Ireland that would not merely be “a peaceful island in a sea of troubles, but, ... a maker and shaper of world peace.”

President Kennedy did not live to see the Berlin Wall fall, but he believed that it would.

He would not see his country land a man on the moon, but he believed it could.

He did not see the internet and advances in technology that would bring our world together, but he believed such things could be achieved.

Connection

His brief visit to Ireland connected our countries vividly, ... connected us vitally, ... connected us spiritually.

From New Ross to Hyannis, from the Oireachtas to the White House, John F Kennedy planted a vision that would link us, not only to the past but to the deep, deep roots of the future.

And the harvest of that faith remains here today; more vibrant now than ever.

More needed now than ever.

That infamous wall in Berlin has fallen. But still today, there are many walls of conflict. Walls of fear.

There are walls that blind us to the needs of others.

Walls that we foolishly imagine separate our fate from the fate of the other living systems of this planet.

Walls that must be overcome, by Ireland and America, together — for the future of our shared humanity.

Ireland and America

Ireland and America. For centuries we have been word-linked. We have been freedom-linked. We have been linked by our imaginations. We have been linked by our histories. We are linked by the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

America. Ireland. The world we see— from both sides of the Atlantic — is a continuous circle of humanity; a circle broken only by the walls we build between, and the darkness our compassion has yet to overcome.

There are no two countries more bound to each other. There are no two countries more grounded in the fact of their reaching out to the world.

Our shared experience is that we share our experience — of democracy, of generosity, of bravery, of hope.

Perhaps nowhere in its recent history has Ireland been stronger than as a “maker and shaper of peace.”

Peace. We in America look to it and are thankful for it. We know that we can always learn from it. In Colombia they can take great inspiration from it. In the holy grounds of the Middle East. In all areas of conflict around the world.

Here in Ireland, the Peace Process is one of our century's great breakthroughs. One to be admired,... emulated,... nurtured.

While the United States played an important and helpful role, the drive for peace actually came from the hard-working people of this Island who saw the necessity of change.

You brought “peace” to life. You raised it from the ground up. You cultivated it.

What has been achieved – through the patient work of so many – is something that most thought was impossible.

And yet, you have dissolved the walls of old hatreds, and made greater room for your children's future.

Peace. “A process,” Kennedy called it. An idea we must continue to wage.

The Seed of Opportunity

To be Irish,... to be American,... to be human,... is to know that every challenge, however great, holds the seed of opportunity.

It is suggested by some that a small country can do little in a world that seems increasingly dominated by the very large few. But the reality is that Ireland is often the fore-runner of truly democratic aspirations and realizations.

This is the Irish example that President Kennedy celebrated and extolled during his visit: that a nation and a people need not be large in size, or powerful in force of arms, in order to influence,... the conscience of the world.

Look at what Ireland has done over the years.

Ireland has been pivotal in the disarmament debates at the United Nations.

In the European Parliament and beyond, Ireland has stood up for the cause of civil rights, especially on behalf of women and minorities.

Ireland has sent more help than other countries, both in terms of money and compassionate hands, to troubled areas of the world to alleviate the most excruciating human suffering.

Ireland has contributed troops to peacekeeping missions across the globe – from Central America to the former Yugoslavia, from Cambodia to Liberia, from the Middle East to East Timor to the UN's Headquarters on the East River. Senior Ireland Defence Forces officers have commanded UN operations in Cyprus, along the Syrian-Israeli border, in Lebanon, and along the border between India and Pakistan.

Ireland has been noble. Ireland has been generous. Ireland has been brave.

Ireland's impact is not measured only in currency but in its cultural influence, in its moral reach and in the open hearts of her emigrants and indeed her immigrants.

What can a small nation do,...? What difference can one person make,....?

Quite possibly,... all the difference.

Education. Economic Opportunity. Security. Life Science. The development of artistic and literary voices. The dignity of every individual,... The common good we share,... the greater good we seek.

Our circle is unbroken. And our relationship must constantly be renewed for the greater service of our one human family and this one planet we call home.

Fifty years since,... fifty years forward,...

Climate Change

"The supreme reality of our time," President Kennedy said, "is our indivisibility as children of God and our common vulnerability on this planet."

The threat of global, thermonuclear war hung like a cloud over Kennedy's generation.

Today, our planet once again finds itself in a grave crisis of our own human making.

Climate change,...The doomsday clock has been slowed; climate change marches on, unabated.

This is not just about icebergs melting, or polar bears drowning.

The carbon content of the earth's atmosphere is higher now than it has been at any time in 3 million years.

Our industrial era legacy of burning fossil fuels for energy is the cause.

As the dominant species on this small planet, we are driving the earth into uncharted territory.

The effects – sea level rise measured in meters. Severe weather events with hurricanes and tornados dwarfing all weather experiences in human memory; exacting massive destruction of property and huge losses of human life.

The vast majority of the world's scientists predict an accelerated loss of bio-diversity — the loss of entire species of plants and animals.

Droughts across whole swaths of the planet. "Great Hungers" of famine death in continental proportions.

Clear the Way

No nation, big or small — rich, poor, or fast-developing — can escape the urgent responsibility of this moment.

As a global community, we must turn the deep underwater of our collective

imaginations into stronger collaborations, better innovations, better choices.

We must move from economies of global depletion to localized economies of renewal and regeneration.

Innovations that figure out better ways to feed, fuel, and heal this world of ours.

Sustainable innovation economies — whose jobs and prosperity cannot be off-shored.

A country like Ireland can become a leader in moving a larger world to care and to act. Together with a growing consensus in the United States and the will of other nations, we can focus our progress in science and technology.

Every positive change is needed. Renewable Energy. Solar power. Geothermal power. Wind power. Wave energy. Carbon capture. Green design. Net-zero energy homes. Smart grids.

Hanging in the balance of this great global collaboration is the very future of life on our planet.

And our young people understand this reality more clearly than we do.

What we stand for is what we stand on.

Adversity is not our Enemy

Is this easy? Of course not. It is life and death hard.

But out of difficulty comes great promise — the promise of a more secure world,... a more plentiful and prosperous world,... a healthier and more just world. A better world for our children and grandchildren.

Adversity is not our enemy.

Adversity is the catalyst of all human progress.

We become who we are in our stance against difficulty.

Arresting climate change is the new frontier in our search for peace with freedom.

We have to go beyond the bare acceptance of today's brooding clouds of self-defeating pessimism.

True optimism is brave. True optimism digs deeper.

True optimism understands in the words of the Irish poet, John O'Donohue, that "darkness is the great canvass against which beauty becomes visible."

Space

A final thought, by way of a story,... thanks in part to President Kennedy's vision — and the talented nation of people who made his belief in space exploration a reality — we are now among the first human beings to view the earth from outer space,...

Recently a Canadian-born astronaut, Chris Hadfield, spent five months as commander of the International Space Station.

As he floated above Ireland, strumming his famous guitar, he sent down satellite pictures of a country steeped in beauty against the dark ocean all around.

The images took the world's breath away. Even from the distance of space, one could see what a gorgeous country Ireland is.

While he was circling above us, Chris Hadfield also tweeted about his daughter, Kristin, who was studying psychology in, of all places, Trinity College Dublin.

As the future rolls on, the present grows larger, and our past becomes more vital.

All of our stories are connected.

Conclusion

John F. Kennedy believed there would always be a springtime – no matter how long it might take to return.

His visit here made visible, and solidified, a growing confidence in this new country of an ancient people being an important actor on the international stage; an important catalyst in the on-going heart-work of humanity.

Kennedy could intuit that we Irish, and we Americans, had an ocean between us not to separate but to allow. For all its depth and darkness... this is what the Atlantic does — it joins us.

We cannot afford to quarantine the better part of our desires on either side of the Atlantic.

There is nothing wrong with the extravagance of aspiration when it is manifest in the right direction for mankind.

There is nothing wrong with wanting things to be better when “the better” is for everyone: not just ourselves, but the wider and further world,...

America and Ireland,... the Irish diaspora and the American dream of “peace with freedom”,... they have become a world power; a power — potentially — of the most far reaching kind.

A force for compassion and healing; for transforming our grief,... our wounds,... and our loss into a new tomorrow. For these things do not die — our concern for the people of our one earth,... our care for the well-being of the next generation,... our love for one another.

And in this powerful sense, and in the work we do for that new tomorrow,... we will all,...”be back,... in springtime.”



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Tags: [climate change](#), [innovation](#), [ireland](#), [Moving Maryland Forward](#), [President Kennedy](#)

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Governor for a Day Swearing In

July 2nd, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Good morning. Thank you for being here on this momentous day to celebrate this incredible young woman. Especially thank you mom Angie for sharing Genea with us for the day. I know dad Karreem wanted to be here as well, but he had to take care of business.

I'd like to introduce Genea Harrison, our first-ever Governor for a Day.

Genea represents the progress we have made as a state in acknowledging and harnessing the awesome ability of women to move our State forward.

In Maryland, we have the highest percentage of women business owners in the country. During our administration, a record 44 percent of appointments to the judiciary have been women.

And representing us down the road, in that little town to the west called Washington, D.C., is the longest serving woman in the history of the United States Congress, and that of course is Senator Barbara Mikulski, who is now the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

We also have the oldest statewide organization of women legislators. Which is not to say that the women legislators themselves are old. But the organization is the oldest organization of women legislators. That organization is full of women working to protect the beauty of our natural resources, the Chesapeake Bay, and to make the right investments and the right choices so that our children can achieve at a higher and higher level in school.

And these are all the goals—including the goal of job creation—that inspired Genea Harrison to be "Governor for a Day." These are the things that we all want for our kids.

There's no such thing in our state as a spare Marylander. If we achieve great advances in technology, trade, health, and science, but we don't have a state that is open and inclusive, then we haven't achieved very much.

Our diversity is our greatest strength and it is the responsibility of leaders in this room to nurture the dreams, the skills, and the confidence of young women like

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Genea.

She has set out for herself a pretty long list of things to accomplish today, and so we should probably get to work swearing her in.



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Tags: [education](#), [equal opportunity](#), [Governor for a Day](#), [women](#)

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Congress of Educators on Stream Restoration

July 2nd, 2013

Annapolis, MD

Thank you all very, very much for coming down here today, especially on a weekday in the summer, when I know there are many other things you could be doing.

I've seen the work that you do. Long before there was a state requirement of environmental literacy, I saw what you were doing to connect kids and their curiosity and their heart and their passion to the natural environment around them. And I've seen your kids' faces light up when you go to the trouble to figure out a way to get them on a bus and to get them out into nature. Or to take them down into a stream bed to do surveys. You're getting them to think empathetically and intellectually about the better choices and the better actions that we can take together to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and her tributaries.

One of those young people is with us today. You're here on a historic day. Genea Harrison, she is the first ever "Governor for a Day" appointed here in Maryland. Genea, is there anything you want to say to people? Okay, come on up.

Governor Harrison: I have something to say about the Chesapeake Bay and what we can change about it.

Cleaning up the Bay is really important to me because my Grandma lives close to it. In the summer, my little brother and I go to visit and go swimming at the Matapeake Beach. If we want to be able to keep swimming there and doing other things like fishing and boating, there are lots of things that we can do.

We can plant trees along to Bay to stop rain water from getting into the Bay; Trees also help the animals' environment and keep stream temperatures cool. Do not let people throw waste into the Bay from boats. Do no throw anything down storm drains because they go directly to the Bay. Also, clean trash up around storm drains so that it doesn't end up in the Bay. Help the Bay by only keeping the fish you will use and throwing the rest back. Encourage people to buy the Chesapeake Bay license plate. It costs \$12 and goes to help protect the Bay. We can protect oysters because they help filter the Bay. Oyster gardens can be grown on floats attached to docks. I'm going to talk to my Grandma about making an oyster garden. Thank you.

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Governor O'Malley: Governor, good job.

Here's the idea that I wanted to share with you, and thanks for your help in making it real. Over the last 7 years, we have been hard at work as an administration to take better actions, stronger actions, make better choices. Sometimes, individually, they're really unpopular. Whether it was the unpopular decision on the flush tax, or whether it was the difficult choices on the storm water restoration things, or whether it was cuts that were made, or taxes or anything else. The bottom line of all of this is creating the jobs that come about by improving the skills of our people, improving the security of our people, improving the health of our people, and improving the sustainability of our way of life. And there is no state that has a bigger or more beautiful sustainability challenge than we have with the Chesapeake Bay.

As you may know, Maryland is home to 10,000 miles of rivers and streams. 10,000 miles of water flowing through our cities, towns, fields, forests and backyards. All of it bound for the Chesapeake Bay. Whether that water is clean and life-sustaining, or laced with pollutants, is up to us. This is a choice.

As Genea just demonstrated there, you and your students have a critically important role in making this choice. The actions that we take, as a generation, are going to determine the health of the generation to follow. That generational understanding, if it's promoted, if it's fostered, and if it's pushed forward, will allow us to not only consolidate the gains that we've made in these last few years, but to get us to a point where we reach that healthier Bay tipping point. That point at which all of the individual tributaries of the Bay are getting little healthier every year instead of a little sicker every year.

Somebody once described the health of the Bay to me in this way. They said with the population growth, it's like trying to walk up a downward moving escalator. The more actions you take intentionally, the more population growth brings you down unintentionally.

It's against that backdrop that all of the Governors of the Chesapeake Bay watershed agreed to implement a program very much like Maryland's BayStat, where we apply GIS and the measurement of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sedimentary reductions to the map. For the first time ever, instead of having a 40 year aspirational goal, we actually set two-year milestones. And each of the 6 states adopted two-year milestones.

Will we hit every of the two-year milestones? No, occasionally we won't. Some of them we will, some of them we won't. And then we double back and say what can we do in order to amp up our effort on this score?

In our modern desire to rush to the solution, our minds tend to go right to the heart of the dead space in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay. And we start imagining we can put a filter in there like an aquarium or something.

That's not the way it works. The way you eliminate that dead space in the center of the bay is to restore the health of the tributaries, the creeks, the Watts Branch, the Herring Run.

It's not the sort of work that can get done in one four year term of any Governor, or even in two 4 year terms. It's not the sort of work that can get done in a school year

that runs from September to June.

But, if you're teaching at, say, Wooten High School, what are the creeks that through that area? If we can take stock together of the tributaries that run through the catch net area of our particular school zone, we can connect that stream restoration work in such a way that we put it together with the service requirements that we have in high school. We can put that together with a restoration project that might be years ongoing. That might involve tapping into your county government and helping the kids to advocate blacktop remediation or rain gardens. It might be as simple as going to a private landowner and saying "You know what, this part of the stream in your land is not buffered. You can do great things for our kids if you allow them to join with you and the state in replacing and restoring the stream buffers."

The options are many and the good news is this: Ever since we've been measuring the actions instead of just hoping 40 years from now we might wake up and see that it's all done...ever since we've started measuring the actions, people have been taking the steps necessary to complete them.

One of them is the cover crops that our farmers are planting. We've quadrupled, in the middle of a recession, the acreage that is now being covered during the winter so that the phosphorus and the nitrogen and the sediment don't run off the agricultural tracts that we are fortunate to have here in Maryland.

I believe that we have an opportunity now, because of the common platforms that we have built—with GIS, modern technology, and a more highly developed environmental science than we had 20 years ago. I think we have the ability to do a lot of crowd-sourced healing and a lot of crowd-source restoration that will really excite our kids. And I think that we can do it in a way that is not a one-off pilot project that we sort of pat ourselves on the back about and then move on to the next thing. I think we can do this in a really broad and impactful way.

And so I need your help, and I think together we can figure this out. There's not a more powerful group for the future of the Bay than all of you who chose to come down here on this work day in the middle of the summer when you could have been doing other things.

I think if we connect our institutions of learning; elementary, secondary, community colleges, colleges, we can guide this action. There are other initiatives that can help us get this done, through the Bay Trust and other things. And our work here could become a model for what can happen if we're entrepreneurial, performance measured, collaborative, and use that common platform for the good that it can marshal of our own humanity.



Tags: [Chesapeake Bay](#), [children](#), [education](#), [environment](#), [Governor for a Day](#), [Stream health](#)

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Judicial Appointments Press Conference

July 3rd, 2013

Annapolis, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Good morning. Happy Independence Day.

In Maryland, our people are our greatest asset,... and our diversity is our greatest strength.

Our strategies for job creation, expanding opportunity, and strengthening Maryland's middle class are all designed to leverage the power of this diversity. And among the better results we've been able to deliver, together:

- o We rank #1 in America for women owned business;
- o We've exceeded America's most ambitious goal for empowering women and minority-owned business; and
- o We are closing the achievement gaps between white and minority students in Maryland's classrooms.

Better choices; better results.

After the nominations we're here to announce, for the first time ever in Maryland's history, the majority of judges on Maryland's Court of Appeals – our State's top Court – will be women.

One of whom, will be the first woman ever to serve as Chief Judge of Maryland's Court of Appeals:

Judge Mary Ellen Barbera

Judge Mary Ellen Barbera is an educator, an attorney, a public servant, and a jurist of the upmost intelligence, integrity, and impartiality. Since 2008, she has served ably on the Court of Appeals. She will be an outstanding Chief Judge.

Judge Barbera began her career as a teacher in the Baltimore City Public School System. More recently, she has taught courses at University of Baltimore School of

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Law and American University's Washington College of Law. In 1998, UB Law School awarded her for Outstanding Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty Member.

She has served on a number of judicial committees ranging from the Maryland State Bar Association's special committee on anti-discrimination matters to the Judicial Ethics Committee to the Maryland Access to Justice Commission. She is the current Chair of the Maryland Judicial Institute's Board of Directors.

Judge Barbera replaces Chief Judge Bell, who has dedicated his life to service. And in addition to his work from the bench, many families in Maryland owe him a debt of gratitude for helping to save their homes.

Last night, we had a ceremony in Annapolis honoring the nearly 800 attorneys that Judge Bell recruited to help families on a pro-bono basis, avoid the wolves of home foreclosure.

Judge Shirley Watts

Judge Barbera will be joined on the Court by Judge Shiley Watts, who I am nominated to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Bell.

Judge Watts will be the first African-American woman ever to serve on our Court of Appeals. Judge Watts brings with her experience as a prosecutor, a public defender, a federal administrative law judge, a Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge, and a judge on Maryland's Court of Special Appeals.

In 2011, the Daily Record honored Judge Watts with its Leadership in Law award.

Additional Appointments:

I am also announcing four other appointments today:

1. To the Circuit Court for Montgomery County: Joan Elizabeth Ryon.
2. To the District Court for Baltimore County: Stacey Adele Mayer.
3. To the District Court for Prince George's County: Gregory Cronin Powell.
4. To the District Court of Prince George's County: Lisa Angela Hall Johnson

Conclusion

Because Maryland is home to such a talented and service-minded people, oftentimes the most difficult part of choosing whom to nominate for judgeships or state commissions is that our talent pool is so – for lack of a better term, "talented."

With the six appointments we're announcing today, we've identified six of the best and brightest legal minds in our State.

Thank you all very much. I'm happy to answer whatever questions you may have.



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Tags: [history](#), [justice](#), [leadership](#), [Mary Ellen Barbera](#), [Maryland Court of Appeals](#), [Robert Bell](#), [Shirley Watts](#), [women](#)



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Prince George's County Transportation Announcement

July 8th, 2013

Suitland, MD

Good morning, and thank you all for being here today.

There is no more important issue in our state than jobs. There is no progress without jobs. We have recovered now 95 percent of the jobs lost during the recession. Part of the reason is that together we have been able to make the better choices necessary to put more of our people back to work, especially when it comes to infrastructure – whether it is our transportation infrastructure, our water infrastructure, new schools. These things did not happen by accident. They happened because we all realized that we need to put jobs first.

I wanted to acknowledge the elected officials who are with us today. We are joined by County Executive Rushern Baker from Prince George's County. We also have, County Commission President Candice Quinn Kelly. We also are joined by the Maryland State Senate President Mike Miller, who is kind enough to be with us today.

Senator Ulysses Currie from Prince George's County. Delegate Valderama from Prince George's County. Delegate Melanie Griffith from Prince George's County. Delegate Sally Jamison from Southern Maryland. We also have the Vice President of Charles County Commissioners Ruben Collins, Commissioner Davis, and Commissioner Robinson are with us today. And from Prince George's County, County Councilmembers Karen Tolls and Mel Franklin.

We are very proud of a lot of number one rankings, aren't we? #1 schools, #1 in innovation and entrepreneurship, #1 in per capita Ph.D's. No state has done a better job of closing the achievement gap among low income kids.

But there is one #1 designation that we don't consider to be an honor. It is something that has been a drag on our economy and our ability to create jobs. We are #1 in traffic congestion.

These conditions won't change themselves. They were a long time getting here, but we have the ability to change them.

To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments like the modern

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investments we are announcing today in transportation infrastructure. All told, this is a \$650 million investment that we're making in Prince George's County's transportation infrastructure.

Let me just highlight a few of these projects.

Number one is a \$50 million investment for a new Metro access road and bridge here at Branch Avenue.

The second project, which I know is huge on County Executive Baker's priority list—is a \$50 million investment for a new interchange, just down the road here at Route 4 and Suitland Parkway.

Number three is a \$46 million investment across the county for pedestrian safety improvement and better bicycle lanes.

So together these projects will support 4,000 jobs. They will make our roads safer and better for pedestrians.

It is all about the better choices that result in more jobs and opportunities for Maryland's growing middle class. These things don't happen by themselves – if we want to create jobs, if we want to alleviate traffic, we have to be willing to make the investments.

With that, I would like to welcome to the podium the county executive of a tremendously strong and forward moving county, Rushern Baker.



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Tags: [infrastructure](#), [investment](#), [traffic congestion](#), [Transit Oriented Development](#), [Transportation](#), [Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013](#)

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THE OFFICE OF
GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY



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Youth Summer Jobs

July 10th, 2013

Baltimore, MD

Thank you very, very much and thank you for the tremendous work that is done here at MICA. How many of you have the opportunity to come to work here every day? This is one of the great places and great spaces in Baltimore and I want to thank you for all of the good work and all you do here at MICA.

I especially want to thank the young people. It is true that without a job, there is no progress. We've all certainly had a reminder of that during these last 4 really challenging years. We're now on the verge of having recovered all of the jobs we lost in the recession. So we're making progress, but there's still a lot more work that we have to do.

During this recession, young people were displaced from the part-time job market, often because adults needed those jobs as they worked to make ends meet. As we speak, about 1 in 5 Maryland teenagers are still looking for work this summer.

Which is where the Mayor's passion for summer jobs comes into play. Where all the private sector partners who are represented here come into play. Because of the choices and because of the investments we're making together as a people, we're going to be able to support 5,000 summer jobs for Baltimore kids this summer.

We're all in this together, and this YouthWorks initiative is an illustration of that. The state has made a \$1.3 million investment. The city's doing its part, with \$1.4 million. And our private sector partners made significant contributions. All of this is making our city a safer and better place for our young people.

This isn't about just one summer. Because when you go to get the next job, whether it is in the fall or next summer, you will be able to have your future employer call this summer's employer. And they can say, "Yes, he was here every day and worked hard. Yes, she was here early every day, and stayed late, and she did a good job." And that is so important as you move up the ladder to greater opportunities for yourselves and your families.

So with that, I would like to introduce to you a woman who needs no introduction. She has a passion for our cities young people, a passion for summer jobs. Please welcome our Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

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Visit to ATK Space Systems Division

July 22nd, 2013

Beltsville, MD

Good morning. I spoke with a number of people from ATK at the Paris Air Show about, just a few weeks ago, mid-June. Tom Wilson, thank you for everything that ATK does. Also, thank you Bill Johnson and Steve Krein for showing us around. I also want to thank the members of the press for making the time to be here.

They're almost a thousand moms and dads working in ATK related companies all across Maryland. Let me just highlight for you, if I may, a few of these places.

Here in Beltsville, over 461 employees. And as Tom just outlined, there are growing needs here in the Space Division, which provides satellite components and subsystems, small spacecraft, engineering services for NASA, Department of Defense, and commercial satellite customers.

Up the road, in Elkton Maryland, about 450 employees work in Missile Defense and Controls. They have experience in the field of human space flight, commercial space craft propulsion, tactical rocket motors, gas generators, missile defense interceptive and propulsion control systems, and commercial energetics.

In Canton, in Baltimore, is ATK Missile Products. That division is an industry leader in the development and production of tactical rocket motors and missile systems for various air, space, sea, and land based applications. It's also home to the development of advanced missile interceptor capabilities and engineering technologies for energy industries. And, further west, just on the other side of the West Virginia border at ABL, are about 400 employees. About half of them make their homes in Maryland, many in Allegheny County, and just across the river to what is known locally up there as "Rocket City."

I mention those four areas because ATK is just one company that represents the great strengths that Maryland has in space, and aerospace. They represent the job -creating innovations that make our country more secure and safeguard America's and Maryland's leadership in space, aerospace, satellite technology, and the like.

This is one of our very, very strong sectors and that's why two of our state secretaries are here. Secretary Dominick E. Murray, Secretary of our Department of Business and Economic Development, and Secretary Leonard Howie of our Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, which does so much good work to

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improve the skills of our people and connect our citizens with the job opportunities here in Maryland's innovation economy.

I also want to mention that we are also joined by Councilwoman Mary Lehman from District 1 here in Prince George's County. We're also joined by David Iannucchi, who is the Secretary of Economic Development for Prince George's County.

We want to see ATK continue to grow. We want to see ATK continue to create jobs here in Maryland. And that's why we are here today. Maryland is home to 15 of the top 20 aerospace companies. Many of us don't appreciate that as we drive by the congestion around Greenbelt. We forget that part of that congestion is due to all the people that are working at NASA Goddard. We look at the Lower Eastern Shore and the Wallops Space Flight Center. You look at the Hubble Mission, which has been controlled by really talented people up in Baltimore.

We are also home to 70 of the top 100 defense contractors.

So, all told, that's over 100,000 private sector jobs for moms and dads working in our State. If you add the public sector, it's more than 145,000 jobs. So it's no accident that companies like ATK are located in Maryland. But whether they stay here in Maryland and whether they grow in Maryland is definitely something that is not the product of chance. It's the product of the good choices that companies like ATK need to make, in terms of where the future opportunities are, where the workforce will be, where that pipeline of skilled employees and that culture of innovation will be.

We know that we have those things here in Maryland. We have, per capita, more Ph.D. scientists and engineers in our workforce than any other state in the union. For two years running, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce named our state number one in innovation and entrepreneurship. Our schools are named number one in public education.

But we also know that there is no progress without jobs and that's why we're so very appreciative of everything that ATK does. And we are also very hopeful that our Congress realizes at the federal level, that the balanced approach—which has allowed Maryland's Triple A Bond rating to be reaffirmed once again just within the last few days—that balanced approach works. And if companies like ATK are going to continue to expand into the future then that innovation and our nation's priorities in terms of defense and space needs to continue to be supported by our Members of Congress. People like Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Rep. Steny Hoyer, Sen. Ben Cardin, Rep. Donna Edwards, they understand that innovation creates jobs, and that our Federal Government needs to do its job in order for us to employ the Marylanders who are working here at ATK.

And now, I believe we're going to get a demonstration of the innovative work they're doing here at ATK.



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2013 MARYLAND CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

Remarks by Governor Martin O'Malley

July 25, 2013

Thank you very, very much for taking the time to be here today. I look around at this audience and I see the great strength that is our State – people who rise to the tough challenges instead of running away from them. Thank you to our Majority Leader Kumar Barve, our State's "Chairman of Progress." Thank you to all of the members of the General Assembly, Democrats and Republicans, who are with us today. And again I want to thank all of you.

We've been able to accomplish some really important things in some of the toughest economic times. You all should take some heart in that, in what you have in one another, and what we have in each other.

There are not many states that have been able to make the progress that we've made, together. Part of the reason we've been able to make that progress, is because we've been honest not only about the challenges we face but also in measuring them as openly and as accurately as we can: the pace of that progress; whether things are working or not working; and the degree to which they are working or not working.

This work is hard. It is not easy. It is "life and death" hard.

We are here today because climate disruption is real. It is not an ideological issue any more than gravity is. [Applause] It is physics, pure and simple.

Our response to it is complex.

No state can escape the urgent responsibility of this moment. In fact, throughout our Great Revolutionary history, it is exactly in moments like these, when Marylanders have always chosen to step up and to move ahead, and that's why we are here today.

We are here today because we understand deep in our hearts that we have a moral obligation to our children and to our grandchildren to give to them a planet that is not on the trajectory that we currently find ourselves on; a planet that is becoming increasingly more damaged, more polluted, more unhealthy.

The fierce urgency of these times, calls on all of us to move forward in this great change in human history. For all of our technological advances in transportation and the economies of extraction and depletion, the great challenge of our time is to move and shift, especially when it comes to food and energy efficiency. We need to move from global economies of extraction to local economies of renewal and local economies of regeneration.

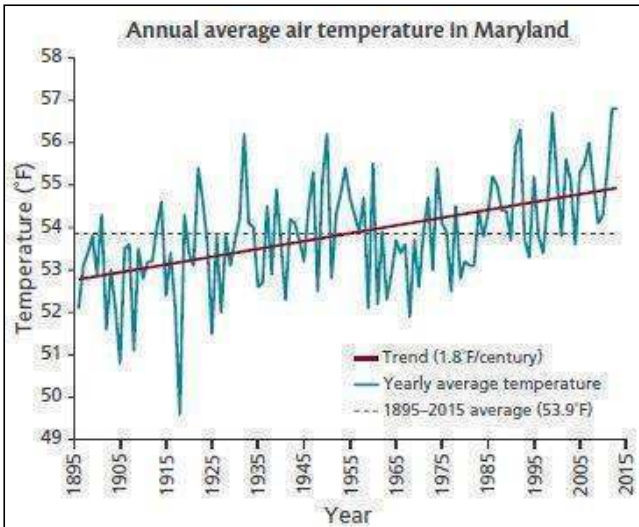
In order to do this, we have to embrace a different way forward. Not ideological, hierarchical or bureaucratic, but entrepreneurial, collaborative, and performance-driven in terms of the way we live, in terms of the way we act and in terms of the way we lead.

If we want better results we have to make better choices.

THE PROBLEM

Facts are facts. The carbon content of our earth's atmosphere is higher now than it has been at any time in 3 million years.ⁱ

And there's no coincidence that last year, there were more than 3,500 national weather records broken for heat, rain, and snow.ⁱⁱ



Nationally, 12 of the hottest years on record have occurred in just the last 15 years.ⁱⁱⁱ

In our northeastern region, last year we experienced the hottest year on record.^{iv}

These are not opinions; these are measures. They are facts agreed upon by 98% of the scientific community regardless of party affiliation.^v

And this is not only about icebergs melting, or polar bears drowning.

It's also, more locally, about the 168 Marylanders we've lost in severe weather events over the past decade and a half.^{vi}

It's about children who suffer from Asthma, a leading cause of absenteeism in our elementary schools.^{vii} It's about moms and dads rushed to the emergency room with heat stress.^{viii} And it's about the 700 Americans who lose their lives each year in heat-related deaths.^{ix}

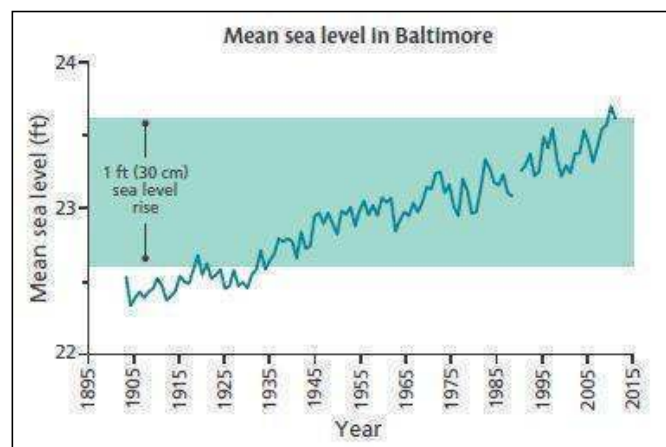
It's also about the economic hits we take as family farms are literally burned out of business in record droughts that are happening with increased frequency and breadth.^x And the hits we will take if rising sea-levels swallow up a third of the Port of Baltimore, devastate Ocean City, and claim thousands upon thousands of Maryland homes that are scattered all around this long coastline of ours.^{xi}

It's also about economic opportunity and job creation- two critical imperatives. Together, we have established Maryland as a regional leader in green job creation.^{xii} That did not happen by accident, it happened because of the choices so many of you have made, through the actions you take, the votes you have cast and the choices you make.

We create more jobs when we work to advance cleaner, greener, more renewable energy sources like wind and solar, than the alternative of importing and burning fossil fuels from other places.

According to the US Chamber of Commerce, Maryland has been named two years in a row the #1 state in America for innovation and entrepreneurship.

And with our miles of coastline, we also have the lesser distinction of being one of America's most vulnerable



states to the effects of climate change in particular the effects of sea level rise. Sea-levels along our 3,200 miles of coastlines are rising three – and in some cases four – times faster than the global average.^{xiii} Thirteen islands in the Chesapeake have been swallowed up entirely.^{xiv}

As things stand, we lose 1.6 acres of our State's lands *every day*.^{xv} And we're not alone. Louisiana loses even more land every day and Florida is in the same boat.^{xvi}

On a global level, climate change means an accelerated loss of bio-diversity that, if unabated, will take entire species of plants and animals off the planet forever.^{xvii} "Great Hungers" of famine death in continental proportions.

BETTER CHOICES

In Maryland, together, we can use the prospect of a carbon constrained world as the means to invent a more prosperous future, and to drive innovation, and education, and industry, and jobs, and expansion of opportunity.

For the past six, going on seven years, we in Maryland have set a number of goals. The most important goal we set is job creation. We have now recovered over 99% of the jobs we lost in the recession. We are moving forward not back.

But the goals we have set all feed and fuel our job creation goal. And among them are our sustainability goals. Three of those 16 goals pertain to energy. The one that we are here to talk primarily about today is reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020. Another is to increase our Renewable Portfolio Standard by 20% by 2022. And the third is to reduce electricity consumption by 15% by 2015.

- Working together, we've created one of the largest clusters of green jobs in the region. And we've partnered with our community colleges and partners in labor- thank you Fred Mason [Applause]- to get more of our citizens the skills they need to compete and succeed in these green jobs.^{xviii}
- Together, we've raised fuel economy standards. We have advanced electric car technology.^{xix} And we have worked with GM to create hundreds of jobs building green electric motors in White Marsh.^{xx}
- We've reformed our tax code to better incentivize green building and sustainable development,^{xxi} we've insisted on building more energy efficient public buildings,^{xxii} and we've embraced the International Green Construction Code^{xxiii} – in fact, we were the first state to do so.
- What's more, we've made tough choices to secure the revenue to fix our roads and bridges, decrease traffic and with it, the poisonous emissions pumped into our atmosphere. We are moving forward together with those things we can only do together like the Red and Purple Lines.^{xxiv} And we've advanced Transit Oriented Development strategies to further decrease traffic and build more livable communities.^{xxv}
- Together, we've advanced solar energy, on-shore wind, and off-shore wind. We've created tax incentives to help families install green energy systems in their homes, and to help entrepreneurs install them in their businesses.^{xxvi} We've raised our Renewable Energy Portfolio – RPS – standards at times when other states have attempted to lower theirs.^{xxvii}
- Through EmPOWER Maryland, we've set some of the most ambitious goals in America for reducing consumption 15% by 2015.^{xxviii}

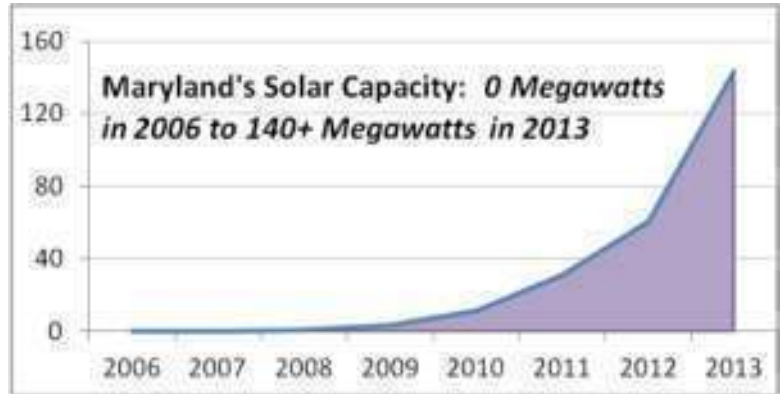
- And while other states, like New Jersey, are walking away from RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, ... we in Maryland continue to believe that cap-and-trade is not an ideological, left-right issue; it's common sense and it's a smarter way forward.^{xxix}
- Last, but not least, we passed landmark legislation which called upon our State to put together a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan – more on this in a moment.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

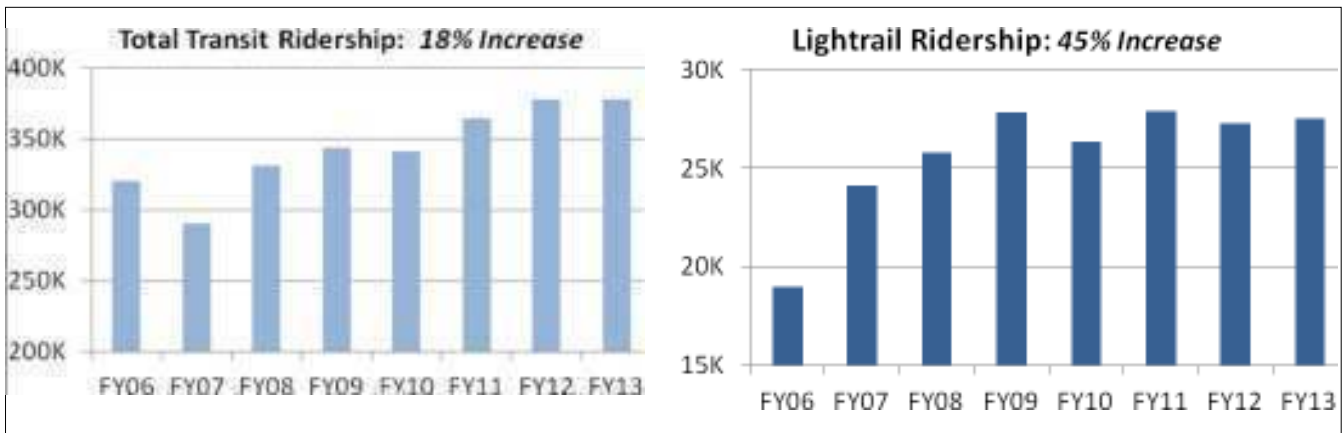
How are we doing? In some areas, we're making real and measurable progress. And in others we're falling short. Such is the nature of human progress.

We have, for example, increased the percentage of electricity we produce from renewable sources by nearly 40% since 2007.^{xxx}

We've grown our solar power sector from virtually non-existent eight years ago into an industry which employs 2,000 Marylanders and is estimated to create 10,000 more jobs in the years ahead.^{xxxi}



We've increased light rail ridership by 45%, and overall public transit ridership 18%.^{xxxii} All graphs that are clearly moving in the right direction.



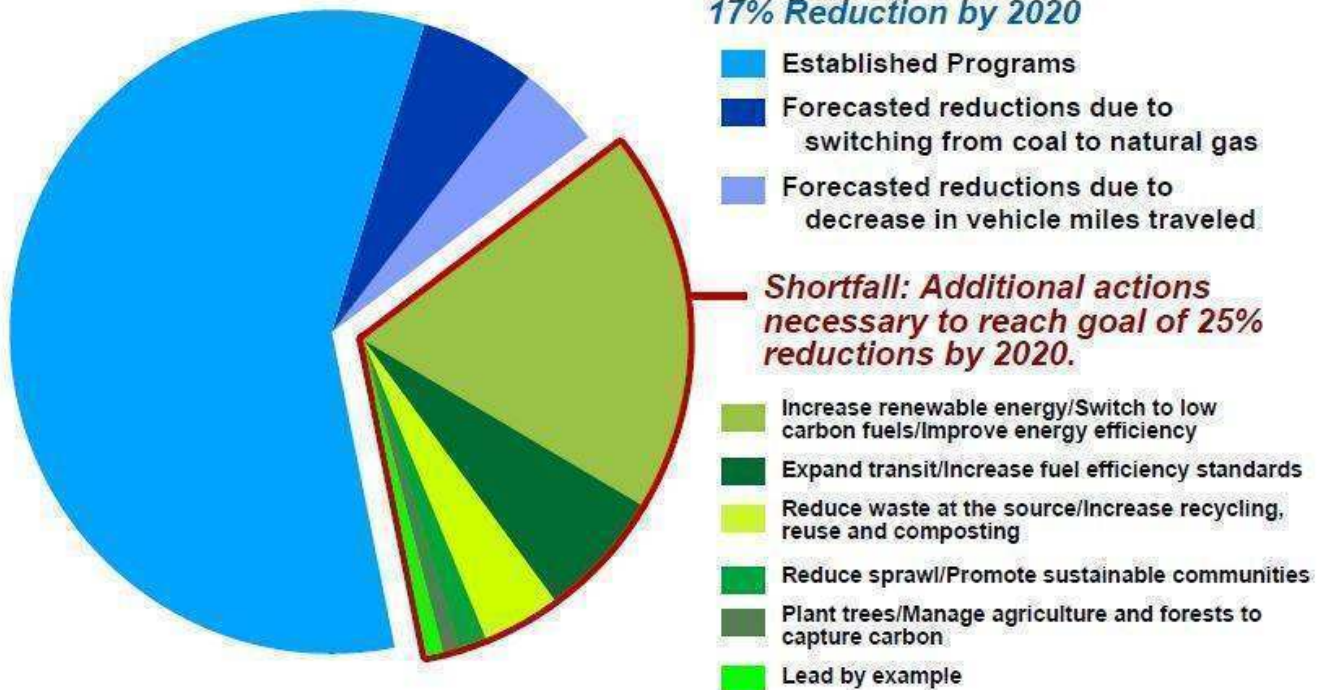
We've decreased peak electricity demand by nearly 11% and consumption by more than 9%.^{xxxiii}

And we've partnered with 35 local governments throughout our state, including eight counties and Baltimore City, to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and transportation petroleum reduction at the local level.^{xxxiv}

But so far we are falling short of our goals to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions 25% by 2020. Right now, we are at only 8%. At the current pace, we will fall short. Instead of the 25% reduction we will come in roughly around a 17% reduction.^{xxxv}

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goal: 25% Reduction by 2020

**Current Trajectory:
17% Reduction by 2020**



GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PLAN

So how will we close this gap? That's what we have been working collaboratively on with all sorts of stakeholders, hearing every voice to come up with a Greenhouse Reduction Plan.

Our Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan is a set of initiatives, a roadmap, for how we move forward. Our Plan will create an estimated 37,000 jobs – and perhaps more.^{xxxvi} It will generate \$1.6 billion into Maryland's economy. And it will move us closer toward our goals for reducing greenhouse emissions.

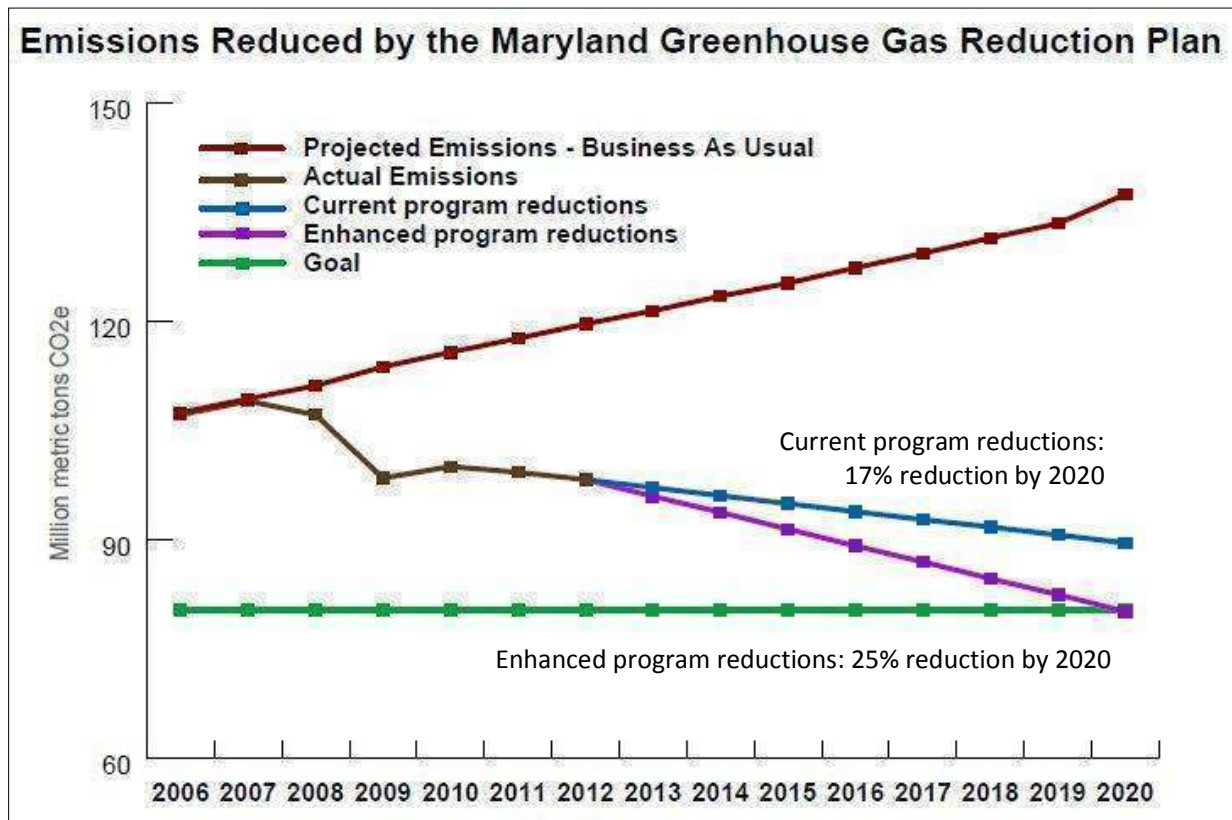
Better choices; better results.

A few of the choices in this plan:

1. We will advance cleaner, greener energy by raising, once again, our RPS [Applause] – the portion of our electric load that electric suppliers purchase from renewable sources. Today our RPS goal is 20%. We will get to at least 18% by 2020 and should hit the 20% goal by 2022. Given this progress, we have every reason to believe we can raise our goal to 25%, achieve that goal and make up a large part of the gap in greenhouse gas reductions.^{xxxvii}
2. We will work together to exceed the EmPOWER Maryland goal of saving Maryland families money on their electric bills by reducing per capita electricity consumption and peak load demand by 15% by 2015. Our Maryland Energy Administration is actively working to learn what other states making progress

towards these goals are doing to save their citizens money and reduce electricity consumption at a faster rate than we are in Maryland.^{xxxviii}

3. We will make good on the agreement we made with other states in our region through RGGI, to lower the cap from 165 million tons of poisonous carbon dioxide pumped into our atmosphere to 91 million tons.^{xxxix}
4. We will take further action to double Maryland transit ridership by 2020.^{xl} When I used to mention that goal before it seemed like a pipe dream, but because of the tough choices that your legislators have made we are moving forward with the Red and Purple lines. But it's also about the way we choose to grow in smarter and more sustainable ways. To encourage Transit Oriented Development, I signed an Executive Order instructing state agencies to put new facilities near transit stations. We added more multilevel MARC trains to grow capacity. We are also making it easier and more convenient for Marylanders to take public transit with new electronic card readers at transit stations and more reliable, cleaner, greener locomotives.
5. We will improve the way we manage Maryland's forests working with nature to capture carbon pollution before it reaches our atmosphere. We will do this by enrolling the forests we don't yet manage into our nation-leading, award-winning management regimes.^{xli}
6. We will team with families throughout our State to plant more trees [Applause]: 43,030 acres worth by 2020.^{xlii} That is a big task. We are all going to have to work together to achieve it, but we have created the tools that will allow us to accomplish it like GreenPrint and AgPrint.
7. We are implementing an Adaptation Strategy to make our state more resilient and prepared for the likelihood of climate-related weather events. As part of this strategy, last year, I signed an Executive Order which directs new and reconstructed state structures, to be planned and constructed to avoid or minimize future flood damage.^{xliii} This is an area where we may need to do more work in next year's General Assembly. We need to better and more directly articulate that sea level rise inundation—and the threat it poses to human health and human life—needs to be in consideration as we seek to protect our other living systems in our wetlands and our shorelines.
8. We will set the aspirational goal of becoming a “zero-waste state.” [Applause] If companies like Walmart can set the goal of zero waste and make tangible progress towards achieving it,^{xliv} we believe there is no reason that a great corporation like Maryland cannot do this as well. To get there, we will work to advance strategies like composting and greater recycling.^{xlv} The good news is we already have one of the highest recycling rates in the nation. There is a lot of methane in our ozone that comes out of our landfills- that is the traditional way we used to live. But in order to reach our goals we must come up with smarter, more innovative, more sustainable ways to deal with our waste. Zero waste is a strategy that will bring together the various actions that many of us are already taking



CONCLUSION

In conclusion: we have a planet to save and we have jobs to create.

We need, as a People, to create greater opportunities to work and earn a decent living. And what we stand for is what we stand on.

One of the great ironies of these times is that the very immensity of the challenges posed by climate change are the same forces driving a new wave of innovation. Innovation in building net zero homes. Innovation in harnessing the sun and wind to power our state, and empower our small and family owned businesses. Innovation that we can use to create jobs and expand opportunity now and in the future.

As America's #1 state for public education, and America's #1 state for innovation and entrepreneurship, we have all of the tools and talent we need to be #1 in green-sector job creation.

As Marylanders we embrace the "fierce urgency of now". We make better choices in order to achieve better results. And with trust in God and faith in the world we move forward not back.

Thanks very much.

ⁱ The Keeling Curve, which measures the proportion of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere, surpassed 400 parts per million in 2013. Scientists estimate that this is the first time carbon has reached 400ppm since the Pliocene era 3 million years ago.

ⁱⁱ 3,527 monthly weather records were broken nationwide in 2012; 18 of those records were broken in Maryland according to a National Resources Defense Council [study](#).

ⁱⁱⁱ By tracking global surface temperatures, the Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA determined that 12 of the warmest years on record occurred since 1998 (2001-2012).

^{iv} The 12-month period from August 2011 – July 2012 was the warmest 12-month period on record for the Northeast United States according to data from the [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#) at Cornell University. January-July 2012 was also the warmest 7-month period on record since record keeping began in 1895.

^v 98.4% of scientific authors and 97.1% of scientific papers endorsed the theory that global warming is being accelerated by current human action, according to a [study](#) by a collaboration of researchers in the US, UK, Canada and Australia analyzing 12,465 scientific papers written on climate change and global warming. Only 1.2% of authors and 1.9% of papers rejected a human-induced theory of climate change, while .4% of authors and 1.0% of papers were uncertain about the theory.

^{vi} From 1995-2012, at least 168 Marylanders were killed and 1,357 injured in severe weather-related incidents, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Natural Hazard Statistics](#) state summaries.

^{vii} 1 in 100 Maryland children are admitted to the ER for asthma every year in Maryland. From 2006-2010, 131 children for every 10,000 children age 5-12 were admitted to the ER for asthma, on average, each year. In 2011, there were over 9,100 hospital admissions for asthma in Maryland, costing an average \$8,000 a day according to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Climate change will only make air pollution and allergies worse - according to the [National Resources Defense Council](#), rising temperatures and increased carbon dioxide levels associated with climate change contribute to higher levels of air pollution, smog, ragweed, and other allergens.

^{viii} Between 2000 and 2009, 4,970 Marylanders were admitted to hospital emergency rooms for heat-related stress according to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

^{ix} According to the [Center for Disease Control](#), an average of 723 Americans died each year from heat-related causes between 1999 and 2009. An early analysis of heat-related deaths in 2012 indicates that this rate is on the rise – a two-week period in 2012 had 4 times more heat-related deaths than the same two-week period in 1999-2009. 160 Marylanders have died from heat exposure since 2007 – 4 of these deaths occurred in 2013 according to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

^x The number of acres in agricultural production in Maryland has decreased by 22% in the last three decades according to the [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#). In total, we've lost over 562,000 acres of farmland including 26,000 acres in the last decade alone. Between 1978 and 2007, Maryland had a net loss of approximately 2,700 farms. The farms that remain are suffering from increased drought and dry conditions – in 2012, [13 counties](#) in Maryland reported crop losses of over 30% due to drought.

^{xi} Recent [estimates](#) put Maryland's risk of sea level rise between 1 and 2 feet by 2050 and between 2 and 6 feet by 2100. Our record-breaking Port of Baltimore will lose a third of its facilities to flooding caused by sea level rise by 2050. The [American Security Project](#) estimates a decrease of just 1% in the Port of Baltimore's shipping activities will cost \$361 million in economic loss to Maryland's GSP and over 3,600 jobs between now and 2018. If the sea level rises to its lowest projection – 2 feet over 50 years - 12,898 Marylanders, 8,195 homes, and 109,244 acres of land will be affected. If the sea level rises further- 4 feet over 100 years- 37,449 Marylanders, 27,298 homes, and 210,102 acres of land in Maryland will be affected according to Climate Central's [Surging Seas](#) project.

^{xii} Maryland leads the Mid-Atlantic region in green jobs per capita with the 7th highest concentration of green jobs in the nation according to a 2012 [study](#) by the Economic Policy Institute. Governor O'Malley signed the [Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act](#) into law earlier this year creating an additional 850 green manufacturing and construction jobs in the next five years and an additional 160 full-time jobs once the facility is completed.

^{xiii} In July 2012, the U.S. Geological Survey published research in *Nature Climate Change* documenting that over the last 20 years, sea levels along the 1,000 kilometer stretch of coast running north from Cape Hatteras to north of Boston, which includes the State of Maryland, have risen at an annual rate three times to four times faster than the global average.

^{xiv} [As of 2011](#), 13 islands in the Chesapeake Bay once mapped on nautical charts had disappeared beneath Bay waters. Many islands in the Bay and some further offshore are also likely to disappear in the next century as sea levels continue to rise.

^{xv} The Maryland Department of Natural Resources estimated that Maryland is currently losing 580 acres per year to erosion.

^{xvi} The State of Louisiana [Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration](#) reported that a football-field sized piece of Louisiana wetland is lost every 38 minutes. Louisiana will have lost a total of 2,400 square miles of land – that's 25 times the size of Washington, D.C. – between 1932 and 2050 if present trends continue.

^{xvii} A [report](#) by the University of Maryland found that Maryland's ecologically-rich wetlands, which support vital habitats to various Maryland species, should expect a 21% reduction by the end of this century. The value of soft shell blue crab harvests – a major staple in Maryland's \$207 million fishing and crabbing industry – has already decreased by 41% since the late 1990s, according to the [American Security Project](#).

^{xviii} Governor O'Malley introduced the Maryland Energy Sector Partnership (MESP) program to train workers in skills required for jobs in emerging green industries as a part of the State's Green Economy Initiative. Together, we have created over 1,400 new jobs in green industries, and supported energy workforce training for over 2,100 individuals through MESP. Governor O'Malley's EARN

(Employment Advancement Right Now) 2013 job training initiative will also provide workforce training for workers in sustainable manufacturing and construction jobs.

^{xix} Governor O'Malley has introduced a number of initiatives to promote clean car technology in the State of Maryland, including: cutting the number of vehicles used by the Governor's Office by 50%, reducing vehicle emissions through the Clean Cars Program, and creating the Electric Vehicle Excise Tax Credit and Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Income Tax Credit to incentivize electric vehicle use.

^{xx} General Motors built the Nation's first plant by any major U.S. automaker that specifically produces components for electric vehicles in Maryland. Governor O'Malley broke ground on GM's Baltimore Operation in White Marsh in 2011, which now produces components for eco-friendly cars like the Chevrolet Spark EV. Together, with GM, we're creating more than 800 Maryland jobs by 2018.

^{xxi} Maryland Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program, announced by Governor O'Malley in 2010, provides income tax credits for projects revitalizing historic buildings and neighborhoods through smart and sustainable growth. The Sustainable Communities Tax Credit has supported projects in Baltimore City, Bel Air and Silver Spring, and has created over 3,000 direct jobs since its 2010 reauthorization.

^{xxii} The Board of Public Works has approved 20 Energy Performance Contract (EPC) projects that will save Maryland \$21.5 million annually (\$310 million throughout the life of the program) and reduce carbon emissions by 130,299 tons annually. Since 2008, the State has reduced its electricity use by 6.7% and overall energy use by 8.7%.

^{xxiii} In May 2011, Governor O'Malley signed legislation adopting the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) as a voluntary compliance alternative for Maryland builders. Maryland was the first state to adopt the green building code for all commercial buildings; [Florida and Rhode Island](#) have adopted IGCC as an option for state-owned facilities.

^{xxiv} Governor O'Malley signed the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013 into law this spring, which invests in improving Maryland infrastructure and building a 21st century transportation network. The Transportation Act will support more than 57,200 transportation jobs and raise an average of \$800 million annually. On July 8, Governor O'Malley also announced \$280 million in funding to move the Purple Line towards construction. The Red and Purple Lines will increase ridership by 150,000 additional riders by 2030.

^{xxv} Transit-oriented development (TOD) promotes the efficient use of land and transportation infrastructure through land use planning and development. TODs are designed to increase transit ridership by developing a pedestrian friendly environment within walking distance of a transit center. Sixteen designated TOD sites have been approved by the Department of Transportation, 4 of which are currently under construction. On July 8, Governor O'Malley announced \$50 million in funding from the 2013 Transportation Act for a TOD project at the Branch Avenue Metro Station, including constructing a new pedestrian bridge over MD 5, a new metro access road, and upgrading roadways with sidewalks and turn lanes.

^{xxvi} The Maryland Energy Administration oversees a number of tax incentives for families and businesses, including tax credits for Bioheat, Clean Energy Production, Alternative Fuels, and Electric Vehicles. A full list of renewable energy incentives can be found [here](#).

^{xxvii} In 2008, the General Assembly doubled Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard to require that 20% of Maryland's energy will be created by renewable resources by 2022, including 2% from solar energy. In order to reach our goal, Maryland must generate 9,277 GWh from renewable sources in 2022 – in 2012, we produced 3,000 GWh from renewable sources. As of the end of 2012, 7.9% of the energy generated in Maryland came from renewable sources, up from 5.8% in 2007. By contrast, in 2012 lawmakers in [14 states](#) introduced bills to lower or weaken renewable energy standards.

^{xxviii} EmPOWER Maryland, enacted by Executive Order in 2008, set the ambitious goal of reducing both per capita peak demand and per capita electricity consumption in Maryland by 15% by 2015. More than 35,000 commercial and industrial businesses have participated in the utility-run EmPOWER energy efficiency programs, and more than 25,000 low and moderate income Maryland households have benefited from energy efficiency retrofits through state-administered programs. Through EmPOWER programs, incentives for more than 20 million efficient lightbulbs have been provided and more than 360,000 energy efficient appliances and HVAC systems have been installed in Maryland households. To date, Maryland home and business owners participating in utility- and MEA-run EmPOWER programs have saved an estimated 2.3 million megawatt-hours of electricity.

^{xxix} RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, is the Nation's first power plant emissions cap and trade program. States that participate in RGGI must require power plants to purchase the right to emit carbon dioxide. Each state is allocated a fixed number of carbon dioxide "allowances" – equal to 1 ton of carbon dioxide – which are auctioned to plants. Plants can then trade allowances among themselves. Nine Northeast states participate in RGGI; Maryland joined the initiative in 2007, prior to the programs first year in 2009. Maryland has been a strong supporter of RGGI, even as states, like [New Jersey](#), have renounced participation in the program.

^{xxx} In 2007, only 5.8% of the energy produced in Maryland was produced from renewable sources. In 2012, 7.9% of the energy produced in Maryland came from renewable sources- a 40% increase in just six years. Today, we are nearly halfway towards the Administration's goal of increasing Maryland's in-state renewable generation to 20% by 2022.

^{xxxi} Maryland's solar energy capacity has grown from less than .1 MW in 2007 to 120 MW in 2012. The State has awarded almost 8,000 grants to install solar, wind and geothermal systems on residential properties and supported 17 solar energy installations on public buildings.

^{xxxii} In FY2006, less than 19,000 Marylanders commuted via the light rail on any average weekday. Last fiscal year, more than 27,000 Marylanders saved resources by using the light rail to get to work- a 44% increase in six years. Average weekday ridership across all of Maryland's public transit system has increased 18% from 320,400 average weekday riders in FY2006 to 377,900 riders in FY2012.

^{xxxiii} The O'Malley-Brown Administration set a goal of reducing per capita peak demand and per capita electricity consumption in Maryland by 15% by 2015. Through 2012, we've reduced actual per capita peak demand 11% from 2.56 KW in 2007 to 2.28 KW in 2012. We've reduced actual per capita consumption 9.4% from 12.38 MWh in 2007 to 11.21 MWh in 2012.

^{xxxiv} Through the Maryland Smart Energy Communities Program, the State partners with local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy innovation and petroleum reduction. To date, 35 local governments (nine counties including Baltimore City and 25 municipalities) have signed on to the program. In May, the [Maryland Energy Administration](#) announced over \$4 million in grants to these local partners to help them reach their goals.

^{xxxv} The estimated progress under current programs implementation through 2020 presumes that energy and transportation sector emissions reduction trends continue on the present path.

^{xxxvi} The Regional Economic Studies Institute at Towson University found that Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan would create approximately 37,000 jobs and \$1.6 billion in economic output for the State.

^{xxxvii} Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires that 20% of electricity in Maryland come from renewable sources by 2022. Under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, the percentage of electricity produced by renewable sources has increased to 7.95% – a 39.5% increase since 2007 – and we have set a goal to raise Maryland's RPS to 25% from the current 20%. By committing to having at least 20% renewable energy by 2022, Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by up to 10.96 million metric tons annually.

^{xxxviii} Through EmPOWER Maryland programs, together we have reduced actual per capita peak electricity demand (kW) by 10.8% and actual per capita electricity consumption (MWh) by 9.4% in Maryland since 2007. To date, the program has achieved an initial annual reduction of 8.42 million metric tons of greenhouse gases. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan's enhanced reductions will bring EmPOWER Maryland's annual reduction to 10.52 million metric tons.

^{xxxix} In accordance with a January 2013 [agreement](#) made by the 9 states participating in RGGI, in 2014 the cap on carbon dioxide emissions for the region will be lowered from 165 million tons of CO₂ to 91 million tons. The lower cap is expected to decrease emissions in Maryland by up to 3.6 million metric tons of greenhouse gases by 2020.

^{xl} Doubling transit ridership by 2020 is one of Governor O'Malley's 16 strategic, measurable goals for the State of Maryland. Together with other transportation reforms in Governor O'Malley's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan increased transit ridership is expected to contribute to a 13.8 million metric ton reduction in carbon dioxide levels annually.

^{xli} Enrolling currently unmanaged forests increases carbon capture and helps create renewable biomass for energy production while removing 1.8 million metric tons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere annually.

^{xlii} The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan calls for the reforestation of 43,030 acres of trees in Maryland by 2020. Planting trees expands forests and increases overall carbon capture. Governor O'Malley's reforestation efforts will reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 1.79 million metric tons.

^{xliii} Last December, Governor O'Malley signed an [Executive Order](#) directing Maryland state agencies, among other things, to develop "Smart Coast" guidelines for the building and rebuilding of State structures and infrastructure. The Order also directs state agencies to consider flooding and sea level rise when designing capital budget projects.

^{xliv} As one of the company's three sustainability goals, [Walmart committed to creating net-zero waste](#) by cutting back on food packaging and plastic bags, creating electronic recycling programs, and finding solutions for excess food. For example, in 2011 Walmart Mexico turned 1.2 million lbs. of cooking oil used in stores into biodiesel, soap, and cattle feed supplements.

^{xlv} In order to achieve zero waste in Maryland, solid waste sent to landfills and incinerators will be nearly eliminated in favor of sustainable waste removal practices including reuse, recycling, composting, and preventative source reduction. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan increases Maryland's annual greenhouse gas reduction from zero waste policies from 2.8 million metric tons to 4.8 million metric tons.



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Transportation Investments in Montgomery County

August 5th, 2013

Bethesda, MD

Thanks very much. It is great to be back in Bethesda Maryland, land of my bread and buttering.

It's wonderful to be with all of the committed elected officials who are here, public servants, and also the men and women of the Laborers International Union. So many people that go out to rebuild our State's infrastructure, our county and our city infrastructure, and really do great work. And there is more work that they could and should and now will be doing.

We are here today at the future home of Maryland's Purple Line! Here in Bethesda, Maryland. And the Purple Line will connect Montgomery County and Prince George's County and bring them together.

As a State, for generations, we have been the beneficiaries of a lot of good decisions. But over the last few decades, we stopped making the investments necessary to create and to build and rebuild the transportation infrastructure. An infrastructure we need in order to strengthen and grow our middle class, in order to create jobs and facilitate commerce.

The failure to act, the failure to make those better decisions had a huge cost. It cost us all in terms of time that we could have spent with our families that we lost. It cost us in terms of time that we could have spent at work that instead our employers lost. It cost us in terms of damage to our land, to our water, and to our air. And it cost us in terms of the jobs that we could have created, the jobs that we should have created, the jobs that would have been supported if we had been making these investments as our population grew.

But this session, however difficult the choices were before us, we came together—led by County Executive Leggett, County Executive Rushern Baker and represented by committed men and women across our state in Annapolis—we were able to make the tough but right decisions necessary in order to invest in transportation infrastructure to create jobs and expand opportunity.

What was true for our parents and grandparents is still true today. In order for a

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modern economy to create jobs and expand opportunity, we have to be willing to make modern investments. In total, the Transportation Act will invest \$4.4 billion and support over 57,000 jobs over the next six years. Better choices in order to achieve better results.

We have a triple A bond rating in our State. It is not by accident; it is by choice. And our announcement today is about what we will be able to do together now because of these better choices. Projects that will ease traffic congestion and give moms and dads more time to be at home and more time to be at work, projects that will make this area even more desirable for job creation.

In May we announced the \$280 million dollar investment to complete the right-of-way purchase and design of the purple line.

Today we are announcing an additional \$400 million towards getting this light rail built. That is an investment that will bring Montgomery and Prince George's Counties together.

Secondly we will invest \$25 million in the people of Brookville, a great historic town that played such an important and memorable role in the War of 1812. Senator Montgomery is very pleased that we will be relocating a part of Maryland 97 around that historic downtown so that the good people of Brookeville can maintain the place they live as a part of their community.

Third, we will invest \$3 million to advance the widening of Maryland 124.

Fourth, we will be investing \$3 million to advance the corridor transportation improvement for Maryland 27 and Maryland 128.

And fifth, we will invest \$85 million in Montgomery County's Ride On bus system.

Now all of these investments will also coincide with a \$125 million new exchange along I-270 at Watkins Mill and a \$100 million to advance—this is an applause line—the Corridor City Transit Way.

Again all of this is about better choices. If we want better results we have to be willing to make better choices. One man who has been at the forefront of that happens to be a person who I have had the honor to work with over these last 7 years. He is our Lieutenant Governor. He has been at the forefront of our public-private partnerships – the way of the future for us to be able to do big important things like the purple line.

Ladies and Gentleman, please welcome a tremendous advocate for better transportation and better choices, our Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown.

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Tags: [infrastructure](#), [investment](#), [jobs](#), [purple line](#)

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« [Governor O'Malley Announces Nearly \\$650 Million in Transportation](#)



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Eastern Shore Transportation Announcement

August 16th, 2013

Easton, MD

It's wonderful to see all of you. Thank you so much for taking the time to be here. Thank you to all of the neighbors and all of those who have petitioned their government, petitioned their elected leaders, to make better choices so that we can achieve better results.

This bridge was fine, back in the Hoover years. But, she's outlived her useful life.

Some of the challenges that we face as a people—especially when it comes to creating jobs and expanding opportunity, and building a modern transportation infrastructure—the solution to those challenges does not lie in doing less. It requires all of us to do more.

For many years, I guess we thought the bridge fairy would come down and somehow build a new bridge. But these things don't happen unless we believe enough in tomorrow, and believe enough in our children's future, to be willing to invest in them today.

I really want to thank all of those who made this day possible, including the Support Overpass 4 Students group and the C-Team. One of the toughest things to do is to transform loss into something positive, and what you all have been able to do is to transform that heartbreak and into something much, much more positive. Who will ever know the number of lives we were able to save by doing these upgrades now? I thank you for all of your advocacy and making it happen.

All up and down the Eastern Shore, together, as One Maryland, we are going to be able to make about \$160 million in investments to long-needed transportation projects.

So let me run down a few of them. One is that symbol of our need to do more, and that is right where we stand here today, the Dover Bridge. It's more than 80 years old. It's about time it was replaced. So we are investing \$50 million to begin construction next year on a new high-level, fixed-span bridge here over the Choptank River.

Back in May, we also talked about another really important need. That is to improve

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the safety of the US 301 and 304 intersection north of here in Queen Anne's County. That's a \$52 million investment that is part of this package.

We're also investing \$42 million together as a people to widen a section of MD 404, including a new bridge over Tuckahoe Creek. That means a new median to prevent the kind of head-on collisions that have sadly cost a lot of families very, very dearly. And new shoulders so that pedestrians and cyclists can travel more safely.

And in Worcester County, we are investing \$11 million to move forward on the widening of US 113.

And for our partners at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, we are going to be investing \$3.7 million in order to make the entrance to the campus safer for drivers and for students.

Our #1 priority as a people is job creation. Investments in transportation, investments in the skills of our people. These are the sorts of investments that fuel job creation. 1,900 jobs will be supported by these much-needed and long-awaited transportation projects on the Eastern Shore. So together, we make these choices not because it's the easy thing to do but because it's the right thing to do. Over the next six years, statewide, investments like these will support 57,000 jobs while we rebuild and restore our transportation infrastructure.

The people of the Eastern Shore, the people of Maryland, the people of our country, understood an important truth. The stronger we make our community—whether defined as your town, your county, your state, your country—the more she gives back to us. More importantly, the more she gives back to our children and to our grandchildren.

Our best days are still ahead of us, if we have the courage to do as our parents and grandparents did—not to run away from challenges, but to run to them, to pull people together. To make the better choices we must make to give our kids a better future. That's what we're doing today.



Tags: [Dover Bridge](#), [eastern shore](#), [safety](#), [Transportation](#), [University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#)

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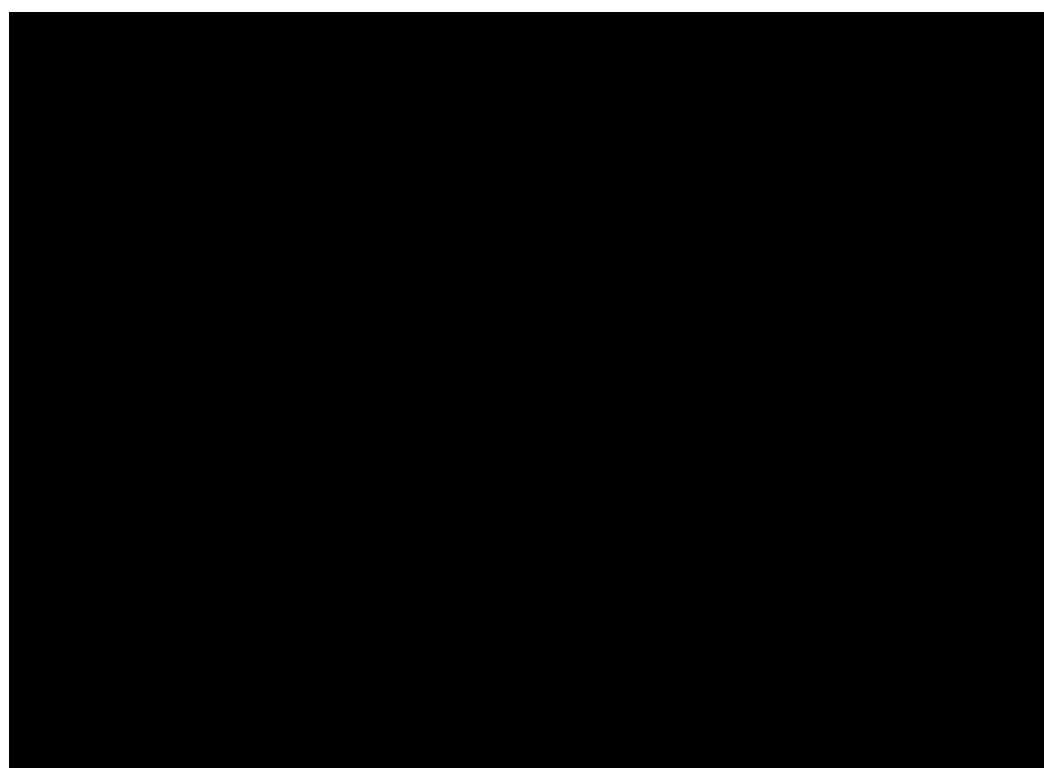
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Maryland Association of Counties

August 17th, 2013

Ocean City, MD



As Prepared for Delivery

Good morning, MACo!

Thank you, Rick, for that kind introduction, and for your courageous leadership.

Today I am announcing the appointment of your President Rick Politt, as well as Howard County's (Chief Administrative Officer) Lonnie Robbins to be MACo representative on the Local and Regional Transportation Funding Task Force.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, has been recognized as a leader among leaders. He was elected president this week of the County Executives of America, where he will have the opportunity to take the better choices we've made together to the national stage.

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In Prince George's County, Rushern Baker's administration,... alongside the law enforcement and neighbors in Prince George's,... has overseen a major turnaround in crime and public safety.

Someone who is not here today, but is with us in spirit, is Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown. He has been an outstanding colleague, partner and Lieutenant Governor. He said from day one that he would do anything we asked, but that he wanted to focus on jobs, health care, and higher education. And he's grown jobs, expanded health care, and made college more affordable.

Together, we will create at least 57,200 jobs rebuilding Maryland's roads, bridges, and public transit.

In fact, we stopped on the way here to announce a \$50 million investment to rebuild the 80-year-old Dover Bridge, something that Mid-Shore Marylanders have been looking forward to for a long time.

Job creation, opportunity, a stronger middle class – it's not about whether we move left or right, but whether we move forward or back.

And so many of you are doing things in your counties that are working; things that are expanding opportunity; things that are strengthening Maryland's middle class, and making Maryland an even better place to do business.

In Dorchester County, they're working to build the first-ever incubator on the Eastern Shore to bring in IT, advanced manufacturing and agricultural research companies.

In Howard County, they're building a community of innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, and advisors at the Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship, to launch start-ups and strengthen new companies.

In Garrett County, they're investing in broadband and wireless for 3,000 residents, and businesses in the most far-flung parts of our state—to ensure access to job-supporting,... innovation-spurring,... high speed Internet service.

These are choices that will make Maryland more competitive in the global market place. They are choices that will expand opportunity. And they are choices that will strengthen Maryland's middle class.

Jobs,... opportunity,... competitiveness,... a stronger middle class – these are the things I'd like to talk with you about this morning.

Better Choices

Throughout the tough times and tough decisions that have marked our years together in service, our mission has remained the same — to strengthen and grow the ranks of an increasingly diverse middle class, including our family-owned businesses and farms.

There is no progress without jobs.

As much as 80% of all new job creation comes from small business.

And the most important job we save, or create is the next one.

Guided by these truths, we have made better choices in order to achieve better results.

Instead of racing to the bottom, we raced to the top. Instead of ignoring the bad math of prior fiscal choices, we corrected it.

Before the recession hit, we put our own house in order:

Instead of weakening our workforce, we strengthened it.

Instead of capping middle class opportunity, we invested to expand it.

Instead of short-changing our children's education, we improved it.

We lowered income taxes for 86% of Marylanders.

When the recession hit, hard-working families across our country lost their jobs and their homes.

As revenues dried up in every state, other states tried to cut their way to prosperity. Most found this only made things worse.

Other states eliminated the jobs of police officers, firefighters, and teachers at a scale rarely seen.

Other states cut public education. Other states hiked up college tuition by double digits.

Other states continued down the merry path of cutting taxes for the very wealthy, hoping against cruel experience that somehow it would trickle down to the rest of us. It never did, and it never has.

In Maryland, we made different and better choices. We applied a balanced approach of cuts, revenues, reforms, and investments.

Even as we cut more spending than ever before in our State's history, we also invested more in public education, more in innovation, and more in infrastructure than ever before in our State's history.

We used the pressure of sinking revenues to make government more efficient and effective.

By strengthening our workforce and advancing innovation, we recovered 99% of jobs lost in the recession,... and we made our State more competitive in the global marketplace, by opening new markets around the world to Maryland products and services.

By freezing tuition for four years in a row, we made college more affordable for more middle class families.

By utilizing smarter strategies, better technology, and more effective policing, we drove down violent crime and homicide to three decade lows.

And by setting clear goals and measuring government performance, we got more out of every dollar we invested.

All of these actions are good for business. All of these things make our State more competitive. And they all make a difference to middle class families.

Better Results

What have we achieved together? The proof is in the progress.

Last year, we created jobs at the fastest rate of any State in our region. And so far this year, we're still going strong.

Not only are we leading our region, we're creating jobs nearly twice as fast as our neighbors in Virginia.

According the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Maryland is the #1 State in America for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Life sciences, bio-tech, cyber security, clean technology, and green jobs—all sectors where we have strengthened Maryland's lead for job creation.

According to Fast Company Magazine, we are one of the top 4 states in America for business startups per capita.

And according to the Anderson Economic Group, we have the nation's 7th lowest tax burden on business.

In our region, we are #1 in green jobs per capita. We are #1 in businesses owned by women. We are #1 in per capita research and development. #1 for PHD scientists and engineers per capita. #1 in median income. And we're in the top 2 highest concentrations of college graduates.

We are one of the best places in America to start a business, because we're also one of the best places to raise a family.

Why do I say that?

Because, for an unprecedented 5th year in a row, we're #1 for public education.

And the most,...important,.. indicator,... of,... them,... all,...

We are one of America's three best states for the upward economic mobility of our hardworking families.

These are the better RESULTS that flow from the better choices we make together.

Conclusion

We still have a lot of work ahead of us, each of us is needed — every county, every town, every business, every family, every person.

So thank you for all that you have done, all that you are doing, and all that you will do to move Maryland forward.

Forward to create more jobs.

Forward to expand middle class opportunity.

Forward to an ever more competitive Maryland.



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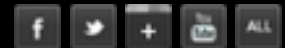
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Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration Ceremony

August 25th, 2013

Brooklyn



It's wonderful to be here with all of you. I want to thank Kathleen McDonagh, and all of those who take such pride in remembering our history and the lessons that we still have to teach our children and grandchildren, about what it means to be an American. About what it means to care enough for your country that you are willing even to give your life for your country and for generations that you will never ever be able to meet.

We are joined by a number of people in our Maryland delegation. Candice Quinn Kelly, the president of the commissioners, and Commissioner Robinson, who represent the people of Charles County, Maryland. Charles County was where General Smallwood—or Colonel Smallwood when he came here with the Maryland 400—was born and where his home still stands today.

We're also joined by the longest-serving, and I think the best, Senate President in these United States. He loves Maryland history and takes great pride in what

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Maryland has contributed to our nation. Senate President Mike Miller, thank you for being here.

We're also joined by a number of other Marylanders, and they are the Marylanders who have inherited that legacy, who share that lineage of the Maryland 400. They're the men of the 5th Regiment and the men of the 29th Infantry Division.

It is a great honor to be here in their company and the company of all of the veterans who are here today at this important place.

At critical times in our country's history it has been Maryland's duty, and Maryland's place, to stand up. Not because times were easy, but because they were hard. To stand up and take the center, not only of these 13 colonies geographically, but the center of this new and emerging country.

That was true at the birth of the Star Spangled Banner and the defense of Baltimore almost 200 years ago, and it was also true here. Here, at the Battle of Brooklyn.

As the envelope of the British Army and the Hessian mercenaries closed in around General Washington, there was only one regiment on the American side that had been equipped with bayonets.

They were the Maryland 400.

They had been drawn from some of the leading families throughout our State. They mustered in Annapolis and were equipped with bayonets provided by the Worcester county commissioners.

Little did they know when they marched out of Annapolis that day how critically important those 400 bayonets would be to the survival of this infant republic.

As the British closed in around Washington, the order went up and down the Maryland line. Facing overwhelming odds and knowing full well that they were not likely to prevail, the order came to fix bayonets.

The Marylanders moved forward.

Twice they charged, and managed to buy Washington's Army enough time to be able to fight another day.

Two hundred and fifty-six of those Marylanders are still yours today. Their bodies lay buried not far from here, not far from where they fell.

We celebrate what they did, not because a victory was won here on that day, but because the sacrifice was made that would allow ultimate victory.

One of the most important things we teach our children as Americans, is that the more we give to our country, the more she gives back to us. And that was the faith that gripped the hearts of these Marylanders, no doubt, as they charged repeatedly and saw one another being cut down.

When they came to you from our State capital of Annapolis, they carried with them also a proclamation from our Revolutionary governor and the Maryland General Assembly. It began with these words: "We can show no greater affection for the people of New York than to send you our best."

May God bless you and the spirit of the Maryland 400, and all Americans who love their country dearly enough to put themselves deliberately in harm's way. Thank you.



Tags: [American Revolution](#), [Battle of Brooklyn](#), [commemoration](#), [Maryland 400](#)

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50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

August 28th, 2013

Washington, DC

The work of Justice is urgent, it is real, and it is needed.

Let there be no comfort in our country for the bigotry of cold indifference.

For there are still too many lives in America taken from us by violence.

...Still too many children in America who go to bed hungry, who go to school hungry.

...Still too much apathy when the lives of people of color are too often valued less than the lives of white people.

And so, the responsibility we consecrate today is not rooted in nostalgia or memory — it is rooted in something far deeper.

It is rooted in the calling of conscience to action.

...Actions that protect every individual's right to vote.

...Action that safeguards and keeps guns out of the hands of violent offenders.

...Action that makes quality education and the opportunity of college a reality for more families.

...Action that protects the dignity of every child's home with civil marriage equality.

...Action that strengthens our country with the hopes, dreams, and hard work of our newest generation of New American immigrants.

...Action that abolishes the death penalty and improves public safety in every neighborhood regardless of income or color.

...Action that creates jobs and raises the minimum wage for every mom and dad who is willing to work hard and play by the rules.

Yes, thanks to Dr. King, America's best days are still ahead of us.

Love remains the strongest power in our country.

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Forward we shall walk hand in hand.

And, in this great work, “we are not afraid.”



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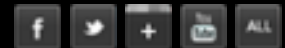
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Vice President visits Port of Baltimore

September 9th, 2013

Baltimore, MD

Mr. Secretary, thank you so very, very much for your leadership.

I want to congratulate Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, the City looks awesome.

I also want to give a big round of applause to the hardworking men and women of the International Longshoremen's Association. Mr. Vice President, as you know, here at this port, we have a tremendous workforce. That really is the heart and soul of what makes the Port of Baltimore thrive and grow.

I want to thank our Congressional Delegation for understanding that the center of Maryland is this Port of Baltimore; Sen. Ben Cardin, our friend Ben, Senator Barbara Mikulski, now the chair of the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Sarbanes, Congressman Ruppertsberger, Congressman Cummings. These individuals that we send to the halls of our nation's Capital understand that there is no progress without jobs. And they understand how many jobs this port generates. I want to salute them and thank them for their great work at this port, and keeping those lanes open year after year.

Mr. Vice President, we want to thank you and President Obama for having the courage to lead, for having the courage to act, for having the courage to make the better choices that will bring about the better results we seek. Those results are jobs, and a stronger and growing middle class. That's why your presence here is so very important to all of us.

We understand in Baltimore and in Maryland that in order for a modern economy to create jobs, we need to be willing to come together and make modern investments—investments that we can only make when we act together. That's why we've been recognized as the #1 public schools in America for five years in a row. That's why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as the #1 state in America for innovation and entrepreneurship. So far, together—thanks to President Obama and Vice President Biden, and the leadership of our Congressional delegation, because of the hardworking men and women of this port and this State—we've recovered 94 percent of the jobs that we lost in the recession.

But we still have a ways to go. That's why today's announcement is so important.

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The cranes over my shoulder were purchased through a public-private partnership that allows us now to accommodate the larger ships coming through the Panama Canal. That's jobs. That's a stronger middle class.

The dollars that our representatives have fought for, to dredge the port and to keep it open for those larger ships, those are jobs. Over 100,000 jobs are supported by the activity of this port.

The Vice President is here today to announce another major investment. Together, we will be making investments that will improve the connections of the rail and the roads that allow us to create more jobs and to move more cargo.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the fight for a stronger middle class, for more jobs, the Vice President has been a tireless advocate. He has been leading in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act efforts to create jobs and expand opportunity, leading in efforts to make our neighborhoods safer, and leading in efforts that improve the infrastructure that connects all of us to a world of greater opportunities and greater jobs for our kids.

Please welcome an advocate for a stronger middle class and a great neighbor to the people of Maryland, a terrific Vice President who is always on our side...ladies and gentlemen, Vice President Joe Biden.



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Tags: [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#), [federal government](#), [infrastructure](#), [jobs](#), [Port of Baltimore](#), [strengthening the middle class](#), [Vice President Biden](#)

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EARN Press Conference

September 23rd, 2013

Baltimore, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you very much, Phil, and Paul, for showing us around.

Thank you all for being here today.

And a special word of thanks to Senator Kathy Klausmeier, Delegate John Olszewski, as well as their colleagues Delegate Keiffer Mitchell and Delegate Luke Clippinger.

We wouldn't be here today to talk about our EARN job-training initiative without their work to make this new law a reality.

There is no progress without a job.

On Friday, we announced that, thanks to our dynamic private sector, Maryland has recovered 100 percent of the jobs lost in the national recession.

While this is an important milestone in our recovery (and a year earlier than our end of 2014 goal), we do not think of it as a mission accomplished.

We're now focused on moving beyond 100 percent, to continue to expand opportunity and grow our increasingly-diverse middle class.

That's why we're here today, at this family-owned business in the Greatest City in America. The Tulkoffs have been creating jobs here in Maryland for 80 years.

With EARN, they'll be able to continue to train the next generation of employees for these family-supporting jobs.

Ultimately, our greatest assets for job creation are the talents and skills of our people.

Maryland has built up one of the most highly skilled workforces in the country.

We have the nation's most working PHD scientists and researchers per capita.

We have done more to hold down tuition at our state's colleges and universities

[Releases](#)

than any other state.

Working together, we've helped our lower-income students achieve the greatest improvement in student achievement anywhere in America.

And for an unprecedented five years in a row, we've built America's #1 best public school system.

Better choices; better results.

But the reality is that too many of the new jobs being created in our new economy still go unfilled. Why? Because too many of our people lack the skills to fill them.

We launched Skills2Compete to fill this gap.

One of our most promising initiatives is the EARN Act, which I signed in May.

Through EARN, the state invests in employer-led skills training initiatives in some of our most high-demand sectors: construction, advanced manufacturing, cyber security, and wellness.

This training is offered free-of-charge to Marylanders looking to obtain new skills and the good jobs which utilize them.

Business and industry, four-year colleges, community colleges, local workforce investment boards, local government, state government, worker training providers—all of us have a role to play. EARN brings together all these stakeholders on a common platform.

The most important investment we can make as a State is in our most precious resource—our people.

Working together, we can ensure that our companies and our workforce have what they need to compete and win in the New Economy.

And now, one of the legislators who made it happen, Sen. Kathy Klausmeier.



Tags: [EARN](#), [education](#), [job creation](#), [jobs](#), [recovery](#), [skills](#), [skills training](#), [Skills2Compete initiative](#)

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IdeaFestival 2013

September 25th, 2013

Louisville, KY

Thank you very, very much. It is a great honor to be here with you.

I have so much admiration and respect for your Mayor. You talk about Public Official of the Year, I think your Mayor should be named by Governing Magazine Public Official of the Year. This is a guy who is an entrepreneur fundamentally. And he understands that it's not just about management, it's also about heart and it's about spirit.

And given the mountain of challenges that every big American city has, there's no way to climb that hill unless you have not only a plan and, yes, better management, but you also have to have that motivation of the spirit that says we're all in this together, each of us matters. In our cities, there's no such thing as a spare American. We're all needed and each of us must try. And that's why I was excited to come here to be with you today and share just a few thoughts with you.

When I was talking to Mayor Fisher, he said, Martin, what I'd like you to do is come down and talk to our people. We've been doing LouieStat, but this is what I'd like you to focus on: I'd like you to talk about where this performance measurement, performance management, where is this movement going from your perspective, having done it as a Mayor and an early implementer and now as Governor.

So I wanted to share just a few thoughts with you on where we're going, beyond performance measurement. Common platforms for the common good.

There's a lot of things that are right about our country. But I think we also have to acknowledge that when middle-class American families are earning no more now than they were in 1989, and everybody's working harder, that we've got some serious work to do. And, yes, it's work of the head and it's also work of the heart.

I believe there's several things we have to do and we have to do them all at the same time. Every city is important to this work, every state is important to this work and every person is important.

We have to rediscover our shared sense of national purpose. We have to restore the balance of investments necessary for middle-class progress and middle-class opportunity. And we also have to reform our government to make it more effective,

to make it more efficient.

Performance Measurement

There is emerging in our country right now a new way of leadership. All of you that do such important work here in the agencies and departments of Louisville can see it in your own Mayor.

You know, we baby boomers, we're accustomed, as were our parents and grandparents, to a way of leadership that was ideological, that was hierarchical, and that was bureaucratic. These challenges, and our children, and this next generation, and the nature of our problems demand a different way of leadership that is fundamentally entrepreneurial. In other words, does it work? Spare me your ideology, we can't afford it. It's not in the budget this year. We don't do ideology.

It's fundamentally entrepreneurial. It's collaborative. So no longer the triangle, think the circle. And it is measured relentlessly, openly and timely, according to performance—whether or not it's working.

So, Mayor Fisher mentioned Baltimore: By 1999, we had allowed ourselves to become the most addicted and violent city in America. I had served two terms on the City Council and despite relentless criticisms of what wasn't happening in our city, I also saw the fact that, hey, up the road in New York, they're actually reducing crime and they're saving lives.

I saw what they were doing in New York, which was the CompStat system. Timely, accurate information shared by all, rapid deployment of resources, effective tactics and strategies, relentless follow-up. And we borrowed that system when I was elected Mayor of Baltimore and we did it in Baltimore, not only with regard to crime—where, by the way, we went on to achieve the biggest reductions in Part 1 crime of any major city in America from 2000 to 2009.

But we also did it enterprise-wide. We called this innovation CitiStat, every department and agency. It's what you call LouieStat. It's what cities all across America are implementing in some way, shape, form, different name.

And we fundamentally changed the way that we governed our city. We started sharing information much better with all our citizens. We put 311 on the front end of it and it had a democratizing and progress-making effect.

One of the things I noticed early on, as I would show our neighbors their new performance management tools and the GIS maps and all of those things. Within about five minutes into the presentation, someone would always raise their hand from the back of the room and say, "Can you show me my house? Can you show me my house?"

I think there's a few things that all came together at the same time in our country. And a couple of them were technological breakthroughs. I mean, GIS, the Internet and 311. We borrowed 311 from Chicago, put it on the front end, just like 911.

But this change has improved a lot of cities, saved a lot of lives, and it's also brought forward a lot of different movements. We moved from being Governments that were primarily governed by inputs, to now—at least at the municipal level,

occasionally at the state level, one day we hope at the Federal level—instead of measuring by inputs we've changed to measure by outputs; the trash, public safety, eradicating childhood lead poisoning.

No longer content with the way it's always been or being limited by what the budget doesn't have in it, we shifted our mindset from one that was focused on inputs, instead to one that was on outputs.

We moved from governing our cities by budgets, instead we now govern by Internet. And we make our information about the operation open and available to every citizen. We give customer service numbers to every citizen, regardless of whether they live in a wealthy neighborhood, poor neighborhood, black neighborhood, white neighborhood, rich, poor, Democrat, Republican, everybody gets that customer service number.

We have moved from governments of "some time" to governments of real time. Real time, real fast, real open, real transparent, and real accountable.

And this has had the effect of moving us from patronage politics—to the winner and his or her coalition go the spoils of governing. We've moved from a system of patronage politics to a system of performance politics, where we're able to recognize the leaders of our city and community governments in a more timely and better way.

We have gotten away from being fundamentally bureaucratic and hierarchical, to operating off of common platforms.

A big part of the technology that allowed this to happen, of course, was GIS and the map. What Jack Maple called putting cops on the dots. Running plays instead of just sending people out to scramble.

There's a metaphor that Jack Dangermond talked about, he said, "You know, if you think of the individual endeavors in any government, whether it's state, Federal, or local, there's all these silos, right? The silos that we've all heard about. You could spend a lifetime and pay people a lot of money to try to connect up and down those silos and you'll never do it. Complex human organizations. But the base of those silos all have to land on the same map, then you get the layers. Then you get the synergies. Then your independent actions become leveraged and aided by those of your brother and sister agencies."

True story. Jack Dangermond, whose company is ESRI, one of the leading GIS companies, said, "I really want you to get me some time with Ed Rendell." Ed was the former mayor of Philadelphia at this time and like many mayors, Governor Rendell also had what I have, which is a short attention span. And he did not want to have to sit down with this GIS guy to see this new product that he had, this new application he had created.

And I finally convinced him, got Rendell into a corner and Jack Dangermond was there and he said, "I know, Governor Rendell, that you always talk about transportation funding and the need to repair our bridges, so I wanted to show you three things that I have done. First of all, this is a map and every dot on this map — this was the State of Minnesota — shows where the bridges are in Minnesota."

Next. Click. Here's a red, yellow, orange sort of matrix showing you where the most structurally deficient bridges are. And he said, "Now I'm going to click on this other layer, which will change the size of these red dots where the most structurally deficient bridges are, depending on how many human lives go across them every single day."

Boom. So we had this beautiful map, we had the big targets, we saw where the structurally deficient bridges were. He said, "Now, the last thing I want to show to you is where the Federal dollars for repairing those bridges fall."

He clicked that and the dollars fell all over the place. And Governor Rendell said, "None of the dollars are falling on the targets." And Jack Dangermond said, "No, but they're all falling on the map."

Our job is to make sure we allocate those resources to where the targets actually are and where the maps tell us they are. It's a fundamentally different way of governing.

That's what CompStat was about, CitiStat, StateStat, LouieStat. It's what we are now doing in the State of Maryland with BayStat, with VetStat and JobStat. And I'm reminded, that my former Chief of Staff said, "Let me caution everyone that simply putting a 'Stat' on the end of a word doesn't make you accomplish things."
(Laughter.)

And that is true. And that is true.

But we have also started to see this movement head into the Federal realm. The Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars, all of the predictions of waste, fraud, abuse—it didn't happen, did it? Because we had a way of mapping every single state where those dollars were going through existing programs, and every citizen could see where the dollars were. It sure had an important effect not only on our economy, but on making sure that the dollars landed on the map in the right places.

On the Federal level we've taken our BayStat system, it's now been adopted by six other states and President Obama, in his first Executive Order on an environmental clean-up, has now created through the EPA something called ChesapeakeStat, where the EPA tracks our efforts to reduce the nitrogen, phosphorous and sedimentary flow into the Bay.

And hopefully, more and more your good work will percolate up from our cities, through our states and into our Federal Government.

Greater Degrees of Difficulty

Which leads me to the second half of this little talk.

In going from municipal government where everything you do is visible to the eye, to state government where so many of the things you work on are invisible to a citizen's eye, I've noticed that greater degrees of difficulty require much greater degrees of collaboration than perhaps CitiStat and the other municipal efforts had to engage in.

And so we've had to do some things at a higher level, deeper level, broader level, than we have in the past. And a few concepts I wanted to share with you are these.

The importance of the concept of delivery; secondly, the importance of strategic goals; third, common platforms for progress, which I do believe states are in a unique position between our municipal and Federal Governments to be able to build; and fourth, the importance of relentless collaboration in order to get to that point where we actually have crowd-base solutions.

So here we go. I once heard Michael Barbor, who used to work for the Blair government, talk about delivery. And he said, you know, when you're trying to fix a pothole or respond to a citizen complaint about a pothole, there are three links in that chain, right? The citizen calls your 311 center to complain about the pothole, crew is dispatched to fix the pothole, crew, in fact, does fix the pothole. Three links, bump, bump, bump.

If you're trying to raise the reading and math scores of third grade boys and girls throughout your state, there are a lot more links in that chain. There's the little boy or girl, there's the parent, there's the teacher, there's the instructional leader for the school, assistant principal, principal, then the instructional leader for the school district, assistant superintendent, superintendent. And then you have the state school board and then you have the state superintendent, then you have the legislature. Then you have the Governor.

By the time you're done with this, you have about 20 links in that chain. And if any one of those links breaks down, you don't deliver the goal of raising third grade reading and math scores.

So we embraced that concept of delivery and we really integrated it into our performance measurement system. So that we do have plans of delivery, we map the chain of delivery for these things—and we benchmark them so that we know when people are delivering and when they're failing to deliver. Plans, benchmarks, dashboards.

Which takes me to the next thought which is this—strategic goals. In every city people understand whether their mayor is doing the job or not, because every mayor shares all around the world the same basic mission statement; cleaner, safer, healthier, better place for kids. Go to any city. Go to Baltimore, go to Tokyo, any place. That's the mission.

In our Federal system at the State level, the goals become much, much more amorphous things. The strategic goals that we have set are goals that have one thing in mind and that is job creation. Creating jobs and expanding opportunities. And we believe that the ways we do this have to do with, yes, the investments we make in infrastructure, but they also have to do with strategic goals that we have set in improving the skills of our people, improving the security of our people, improving the sustainability of our people and our way of life, and improving the health of our people.

Each of these 16 strategic goals is online. There is a delivery plan published, we have benchmarks set for them. So if it's cleaning up the health of the Chesapeake Bay—and every citizen can tell whether we're on track.

Related to this is our use of dashboards. Making sure that any citizen has the executive view, if you will, to see whether their government is actually producing,

delivering, on target to goal.

And so whether it's on climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, whether it's improving by 25 percent our career and college readiness, whether it's reducing violent crime by 20 percent by the end of 2012—we actually hit 24 percent—every citizen can see. Every citizen can see what the plan is.

And none of this would have been possible were it not for the hard work that so many in our State Government have been about, of building common platforms for progress.

One of my heroes in public administration is Bill Bratton, who was the fabled, legendary commander of the NYPD. They said he couldn't do it again in a different city, so he went to LA and he pulled it off there, too. And Bill Bratton in his latest book, which is called *Collaborate Or Perish*, says, "People make it happen, but common platforms make it possible."

And so much of the work that needs to be done now, in order for us to understand the connections between the connections in the chain of delivery, and the relationship between the relationships, and the dynamics that affect the other dynamics in this system have to do with common platforms.

I mean, what is LouieStat or CitiStat? It's a common platform. What is our energy grid? It is a common platform.

Why this obsession with health IT? Because we need to have a common platform in order to dial up wellness and reduce avoidable hospital room admissions. What is our port about? It's a common platform. Our airport, common platform. The infrastructure, the roads, the highways, our communication infrastructure, interoperability, broadband, a system so that we can track every student's progress through school so no child slips through the cracks.

All of these are platforms in one way, shape or form. And technology has arrived at a point where with good leadership like that of Mayor Fisher, we can actually deploy these common platforms in a way that allow for not only relentless collaborations, but that also inform and empower our citizens.

What's the end goal here ultimately? It's really crowd-based solutions, isn't it? It's really crowd-based healing. It's really about empowering citizens to the point that they don't have to wonder whether or not their leadership can show them their house.

It's about making sure that we understand that we're all in this together. That we all have a role to play. That's what this movement allows us to do. It allows us to restore that trust that has become so frayed, that trust that we once had and that faith we once had in the future. It allows us to recover that.

We're not going to create a better future if we fear it. And these new technologies and the common platforms allow us to do something more than simply deliver results. They allow us to restore the fabric of our own democracy, our own compassion for one another, our own faith in one another.

Over the last very difficult few years in Maryland, we have, as of Friday, now

recovered 100 percent of the jobs we lost in the recession. We have reduced crime to 30-year lows together. Last year, for the first time in many years, the health of the Bay was actually made to improve, rather than being degraded.

We were recognized recently by the Pew Center on states as one of the top three states in America for upward economic mobility.

As Greg kindly mentioned, for five years in a row Education Week Magazine has named us the number one public schools in America. Never happened before. It happened in the middle of the recession. Because we did less? No. Because we did more. We did it together through this common platform of ours called our State Government.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce named us, for two years in a row, number one State for innovation and entrepreneurship. And we have the number one median income in the country.

I have the honor to serve good people. And for those who serve the people of Maryland after my time, they will do so with much better platforms than we've ever had before.

The challenge of our times is enormous. To create jobs and expand middle-class opportunity at a time when human population growth now depletes world resources faster than our planet can regenerate them.

This is the existential challenge of our times. How to make that change from a global economy of depletion to more localized economies of regeneration and how to do this in ways that create jobs, expand middle-class opportunity and raise standards of living.

And we cannot solve any of these problems that face us, unless we better understand the connections that we share. How we produce our food, how we produce our energy, how we heal this planet of ours and improve our security. Unless we better understand the relationships between ourselves and the other living systems of this one earth. And meeting this challenge will require not only a technological, but also a spiritual transformation of epic proportions.

As our challenge is great so, too, is our capacity, our technology, our science, our physics and our potential for greater compassion and deeper understanding. Mindful, individual action is the key. Action based on awareness, compelled by intention and motivated by a deep, deep preference for a better future.

As our living together becomes more complex, technology allows our interactions to become ever more personal and more important and more impactful on one another. And it all comes down to this: If we want better results for ourselves and for our children, we must make better choices together for a stronger middle-class, for more opportunity. Choices that restore the balance of investments necessary for progress, choices that reform the way we govern ourselves, choices that recover our sense of national purpose.

I'm not dreaming of some utopia here. I'm talking about the hard, difficult and urgently important work of a second American revolution. And I thank you all for leading our way.

Thanks very, very much. (Applause.)



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Implementing the Affordable Care Act, Creating Jobs and Strengthening America's Middle Class

September 26th, 2013

Governor O'Malley's Introduction of President Obama at Prince George's County Community College

Kettering, MD

How are we doing Prince George's County Community College? [Applause] You all look great.

Are you excited to see the President? [Applause] So am I!

I want to thank all of you for coming out to give the President such a warm reception.

I want to thank Charlene Dukes for her good work here. [Applause]

I want to thank a great County Executive, Rushern Baker. Let's give it up for him. [Applause]

And for Ben Cardin, Donna Edwards, Steny Hoyer, and Barbara Mikulski, our entire delegation from the great State of Maryland, we are so very well represented.

Ladies and gentleman, my fellow Marylanders . . . Progress is a choice. Job creation is a choice. Whether we give you and your children a country of more or a country of less, these are all choices.

And that's why we have answered the President's call to do more and not less, to educate, to innovate and to rebuild.

And because of these better choices we're achieving better results: faster job creation[i], upward economic mobility[ii].

And there is one other call the President has made to us . . .

When I was a boy we spent about 6% of our nation's gross national product on healthcare. Today it's 17%. Those are dollars wasted that could be creating jobs and expanding opportunity.

Releases

So that is why in Maryland we have chosen to be an early implementer of the Affordable Care Act. [Applause]

Lt. Governor Anthony Brown has led this charge and we are looking forward to implementation.

Because when we implement the Affordable Care Act, when we implement Obamacare, that will give Maryland a competitive edge to create more jobs and more opportunities which is really what this is all about.

Our President understands that. Our President understands that creating a way so that all citizens can get healthcare is not only the right thing to do for every individual, it's the necessary thing to do for our economy to create jobs and to strengthen our middle class.

Ladies and gentleman I introduce to you the President of the United States Barack Obama.

[i] Maryland is leading our region in job creation. Last month, Maryland created 9,700 jobs at the fastest rate in our region and the 5th fastest rate in the nation. Together with our dynamic private sector we have recovered 100% of the jobs lost in the national recession. Maryland's businesses led that job growth creating 9 out of every 10 new jobs.

[ii] Maryland is one of the Top Three states in the nation for economic mobility according to the [Pew Center on the States](#). The Center studied economic mobility over a 10-year period analyzing residents' average earnings growth over time, rank on the earnings ladder relative to their peers, and upward (or downward) movement along that ladder. Maryland, New Jersey and New York have consistently higher upward and lower downward mobility compared to the national average.



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Tags: [Affordable Care Act](#), [Obamacare](#), [President Obama](#), [Prince George's Community College](#), [prince george's county](#)

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Schoolshed and Day to Serve Announcement

September 26th, 2013

Indian Head, MD

This is very cool. It's great to get outside, isn't it? I want to thank Ms. Wright for bringing you all out here.

I want to talk to you today about the potential each of us has to be great, and I want to talk to you about our connection to all the other living things around us, not only human beings but also the Pomonkey forest right behind us. That's a living thing. And the Pomonkey Creek, which flows into the Potomac, which then flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Those are living systems and other living animals depend on them. Ultimately, all of us depend on keeping those living systems alive, so that we can support each other.

Speaking of supporting each other, this is Dr. Lowery, she is our State Superintendent of schools. (Applause) She's dressed to be the state superintendent of watersheds and streams. (Laughter) We're very, very glad to have her here.

One of the things I want to talk to you about—and this is the first place we're doing this—is “schoolshed.” And the other thing I want to talk to you about is the Day of Service, which we've actually made a week of service.

So first, let me talk to you about schoolshed. All throughout our State, there are creeks, there are rivers, and they all flow into the Chesapeake Bay, so really in our State more than any other state, God has given us this beautiful example of how we are all connected to this living system called the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Pomonkey is also part of your “schoolshed.” Every school in our State has a whole network of streams that run through that school and the neighborhoods around that school.

So I asked all of the great science teachers in Maryland, people like Ms. Wheeler, about how we can connect our schoolsheds to our watershed. And how we can learn by being out there actually doing things that make Pomonkey Creek healthier, that allow us to actually reach that tipping point where the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and all the creeks and tributaries are becoming a little bit healthier every year, instead of a little bit sicker ever year.

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Because that's what's been happening the last thirty years. As our population grew, we weren't as conscious as we should have been. We did things like building big areas of blacktop, or the pollution, or the throwing things in storm drains, or even putting fertilizer on our lawns. But now, we know from science and from great science teachers like Ms. Wheeler and others, that our own individual actions can really make a difference in the health of the bay. Ms. Wheeler is one of the very first to say, we want to be the leaders in implementing schoolsheds.

So what does that mean when you become part of our schoolshed effort? That means you do things like this, like building wetlands. And every year you plant a few more trees, because we now know how God designed the trees, right? They're perfect. They've got these little things called solar panels, sometimes we call them leaves. (Laughter) God's way ahead of us on that one. The other thing that trees do is what? They soak up water, right, but they also soak up the things we don't want getting into the rivers, like nitrogen and phosphorus, and that sort of thing. So the trees not only clean the air, they also clean the water, so that the water that goes out into Pomonkey Creek is actually a lot cleaner. It's a natural filter. God makes a lot of those. Our pollution has destroyed some of them, so we need to bring them back. We need to bring back the trees, we need to bring back the oysters, we need to bring back those natural filters. And what you're doing here at your school is saying, "You know what, we're going to take pride and we're going to take charge and we're going to take responsibility."

Which leads me to the second part of my announcement.

All throughout our State we have 400 projects like yours that are doing two things during this week of service. We have all sorts of groups that are involved: We have Catholic Churches, Baptist Churches, we have Jewish synagogues, we have people of every type of faith, we have Hindus, we have Buddhists, we have Muslims, we have all God's people. And they are all working this week on two things really. One is what we're working on here, by cleaning this stream and by planting this tree and those kinds of things. And the other is feeding people who are hungry. So we're feeding the hungry and we're healing the streams and that's what we're doing with our Day of Service.

A great man named Dr. Martin Luther King said that each of us can be great because each of us can serve, and that's what we're doing today. We're serving one another. But what we're really serving is this web of life that God has given us, and we all have to work together in order to keep that web of life healthy and make it better not only for ourselves but for our kids, and the people that will follow us.



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Maryland Food Bank Hunger Action Symposium

September 27th, 2013



Windsor Mill, MD

Good afternoon. It's really great to be with such a good group of people. Over the last few years I've been getting to know some of you who do, tirelessly, this important work of hunger relief, like Deborah and everybody at the Maryland Food Bank.

I have been so struck and so heartened by how many really, really good and caring people I have the honor to serve as governor of Maryland. There's not another State in the States that has a more compassionate people; that has a population of human beings who understand that they make a difference in this world, that they are truly needed. So many of those people are here in this room today. So thank you for this honor, the including the very first Ann Miller award. And thank you for the work that you do.

I want to share a few thoughts with you. We're here, all of you are here, because

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we believe that we have the ability, the compassion, the will and the intelligence to eradicate childhood hunger. Not in some distant time, not in some future generation, but to do it now, to do it by 2015. Someone once said that the difference between a wish and a goal is a deadline. So we've set a deadline, and all of us as leaders make ourselves vulnerable, in order to achieve good and important things. I worked very closely with a dear friend of mine who I admired very much, the late Pete Rawlings, our mayor's father. And he was chair of the Appropriations Committee. I'll never forget the wisdom he passed on, which was this: He said, "Effective leaders make themselves vulnerable. It's the only way that they're able to be effective." So we set this goal, and in a way, in attacking this vulnerability that so many of our children have, we recognize in that our own vulnerability. It's also been my experience that good people always rise to the occasion when given a challenge, and all human endeavor happens in time-bound ways.

So we're focused on this deadline, and the dedication of all of you in this room could very well make us the first state to show that this can be done. There's an interesting phenomenon that takes place in government where taking risks is often punished, but everyone in the public sector likes to be the best at doing something second. If we can prove that we can eradicate childhood hunger here, that allows other governors across the country to be able to also declare that goal, to also call people together and to make a big difference. This ripple is a ripple that can really permeate all across our country if we pull this off. And I think we can.

Because as Marylanders, we consider ourselves pro-growth Americans. What I mean by that is that we believe in children growing strong, growing healthy, growing smarter, growing to be all that they can be. And they can't do that if their stomach is fighting with their brain for their attention.

We have 16 strategic goals for our State. Goal #1 is job creation; without jobs there is no progress. Among those goals was a goal to reduce violent crime by 20 percent by 2012. We've actually exceeded that goal—we drove down violent crime 24 percent. We set goals to raise college and career readiness by the end of 2012. And with the 11 metrics we had there, we actually exceeded that goal.

We're not done yet. It's not mission accomplished, but more milestone reached. In the same sense, had we not set those goals, we would not have achieved the distinction of being named the #1 schools in American now for 5 years in a row. So goals are important.

Let me share with you one of my favorite goals, which is this drive to eradicate childhood hunger in our State. I want to thank Anne Sheridan, our Secretary of Children, Youth and Families. We stole Anne from Share Our Strength, and working together with the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland, we have set action plans to do several things.

Many of them are around federal programs. Four years ago, when we started, we thought no one would be so foolish or so ideological or so cruel as to cut food stamps. Well, all things are possible, right? But God never gave us an adversity that he didn't also give us the compassion and strength to overcome.

So suspend, for a second, fears about the representative body of the United States House of Representatives, and pray that they'll get it together. In the meantime, we

can help feed more children.

So this is what we're doing. We've created action plans to increase enrollment in the various federal nutrition programs. We stepped up our outreach, we stepped up our marketing. Most importantly, we committed to measuring our progress and holding ourselves accountable. Circles of collaboration, meeting regularly around a single source of truth, which is this: How many more kids are we feeding today than we were feeding last week? Don't tell me about it in the annual budget of inputs. Tell me about it in the weekly statement of outputs. How many more children are we feeding?

Measurable results. We, together, have increased the number of children we feed each year through our Food Supplement Program by 64 percent since December 2008. And this summer, we reached the highest number of children, families and seniors fed, ever in the program's history.

Measurable results. We more than tripled the number of students receiving meals through the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program. Average daily participation, 11,400. By even more, Anne tells me, she knows the numbers from the latest two week period.

Better choices, better results. If you expect to accomplish more, then you have to do more. So we invested more, not less, to expand Maryland Meals for Achievement. We've increased the number of children eating breakfast in Maryland public schools by 55 percent in just the past six years. That's an all-time high of more than 157,000 students served breakfast each day.

So many of those kids were already getting lunch. They already qualified for the free lunch program, but we didn't bother to feed them until half of their learning experience was over for the day. When you cross that delta of hunger you find—miracle of miracles—that when children are fed in the classroom they behave better. They learn at higher levels. I eat, therefore I think.

Over 350 schools across our State have now adopted alternative breakfast programs—I like to call it breakfast in the classroom, but sometimes it's grab and go breakfast—to give students more choice and flexibility.

As a partner in this work, the Maryland Food Bank distributed 33 million pounds of food equaling more than 27 million meals served in 2013 through its network of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other community organizations. I want to thank the Maryland Food Bank for taking over that function from us, which we did pretty poorly as a State. We're good at some things, we weren't very good at tracking and moving and shipping food out of warehouses. But Maryland Food Bank was, and now as a result more of our families are being served.

But we know that the food banks and nutrition programs alone cannot solve this issue.

There is no progress without a job. So our #1 goal continues to be more job creation in our State. I've got some good news for you. Again in the category of important milestones, but not mission accomplished, we actually recovered 100 percent of the jobs that we lost in the recession. We still have a lot of work to do, because our unemployment rate is at about 7 percent, and before the recession we were at

about 3 percent. So there's still a lot of people looking for work. But our housing market is rebounding, and no state has done more than we have to keep college affordable rather than more expensive during the recession. Instead of doing less on education, together we've all done more.

It is by investing in those things that we can only do together, investing our dollars, investing our time, but most importantly investing our hearts, that we're able to give our children a country of more, and not a country of less. We are a great people, and our greatness is not found in our treasury building or in the halls of our public institutions. It's found in the home of little boys and little girls, the most important place in our country. That's what your work is about. It's about safeguarding, making better, that most important place in America. Thank you for your leadership and your good work.



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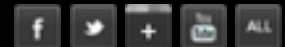


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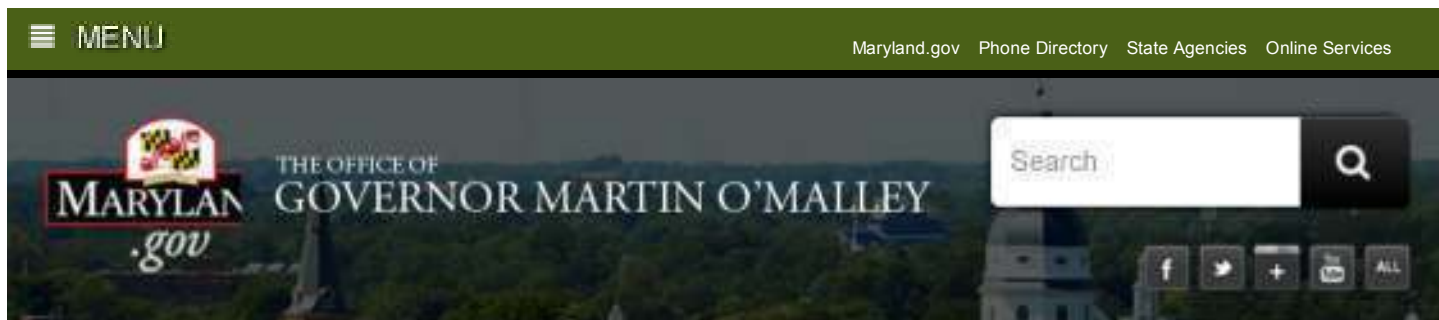
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Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration Annual Conference

October 10th, 2013

"Each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped."

— Robert F. Kennedy

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you very, very much. It is an honor to be here with you.

This is a very exciting time to be studying and teaching public policy. In part because the challenges faced by our governments, at every level, are enormous.

There are a lot of things that are right about our country. But we also have to acknowledge that middle-class American families are earning no more now than they were in 1989.

So how do we fix this?

We must rediscover our shared sense of national purpose. We must restore the balance of investments necessary for middle-class opportunity. And connected to both of these missions, is the responsibility we have to modernize our government to make it more efficient in cost, and more effective at delivering results.

Results

Over these last several and very difficult years in Maryland, we have chosen to move forward, not back.

We have now recovered 100 percent of the jobs we lost in the recession. We have now reduced crime to 30-year lows. And last year, the health of the Chesapeake Bay actually improved a little bit, rather than being degraded.

This year we have been named by Pew Center on the States one of the top three states in America for UPWARD economic mobility.

And for the first time ever, and in the depths of the recession, Education Week Magazine named Maryland's system the number one public schools in America — an

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achievement we have held now for five years in a row.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce named us now, for two years in a row, the number one State for innovation and entrepreneurship.

And we have the number one median income in the country...

It all comes down to this: If we want better results for ourselves and for our children, we must make better choices. Choices that restore the balance of investments necessary for progress, choices that recover our shared sense of national purpose, choices that modernize and reform the way we govern ourselves.

This last point is what I'd like to talk with you about today.

Performance Measurement

There is emerging in our country right now a new way of leadership.

We see it rising from the ground up, and from the next generation forward.

You see, we baby boomers, and our parents and grandparents, grew up with a way of leadership that was ideological, hierarchical, and bureaucratic.

This next generation — the generation that so many of you are teaching — demands a different way of leadership. This new way of leadership has three differentiating attributes: It is fundamentally entrepreneurial. It is operationally collaborative. And it is relentlessly performance measured.

It is no longer about the tall triangle of command and control. It is about the circle on its side — an intelligent circle — in the center of other concentric circles. Circles of effective collaboration.

When I was elected mayor of Baltimore in 1999, we had allowed ourselves to become the most addicted and violent city in America.

But we saw what our neighbors up north in New York were doing — they were actually reducing crime, with the CompStat system. Timely, accurate information shared by all, rapid deployment of resources, effective tactics and strategies, relentless follow-up.

We borrowed this new approach to policing. We implemented it in Baltimore. And we went on to achieve the biggest reductions in Part 1 crime of any major city in America from 2000 to 2009.

We also took this new system of performance measurement enterprise-wide. We called this innovation, CitiStat.

We made it the new way of driving every department and agency. It is what cities all across America are now implementing in some way, shape, or form.

This new way of leadership in public management is fundamentally changing the way we govern our cities; fundamentally changing the way we advance the common good we share.

No longer content with the way it's always been, no longer content to wallow in the

catch-all excuse of budgetary limits, we shifted our focus from inputs...instead to outputs. Trash, public safety, eradicating childhood lead poisoning.

We used the Internet to make the information of progress-making open and available to every citizen.

We borrowed 311 from Chicago, put it on the front end, just like 911. We gave customer service numbers to every citizen, regardless of whether they lived in a wealthy neighborhood, poor neighborhood, black neighborhood, white neighborhood, Democratic or Republican neighborhoods.

We moved from “some time” management to real time management. Real time, real fast, real open, real transparent, and real accountable...

We moved from a spoils-based system of patronage politics to a results-based system of performance politics.

We moved from siloed bureaucracies to common platforms.

Geographic Information Systems – GIS — allowed us to not only “put the cops on the dots”; smart maps also allowed us to run plays instead of just sending people out to scramble.

Traditionally in the past, the essential endeavors of any government — whether it’s state, Federal, or local — were departmentalized into silos.

One could spend a lifetime paying technology people a lot of money to try to connect up and down those separate silos of individual human effort and still it would not happen.

But in better-managed, modern governments, the informational bases of each of those silos now land on the same GIS map. Collaborative synergies start to take shape. Independent actions become part of a larger collaborative undertaking...become part of a better synchronized dynamic of progress...

Hit the Targets: Dangermond and Rendell

Short story.

Jack Dangermond — whose company, ESRI, is now one of the leading GIS companies in the world — once approached me at a National Governors meeting with a simple request, “I really want you to get me some time with your friend, Governor Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania.”

He knew that Governor Rendell had a passion for infrastructure and the proper funding of our transportation needs like bridge repairs.

What he did not know was that Governor Rendell, like all of us former mayors, is blessed with an aversion to blind meetings, and Jack wanted to show Governor Rendell a new bridge app.

When I finally succeeded in corralling a busy and skeptical Governor Rendell into a corner with Jack Dangermond and his computer screen, I warned Jack, “you have 45 seconds.”

Jack launched immediately. “This,” he said, “is a map of Minnesota and each dot on this map shows where the bridges are in Minnesota.”

Click.

Here’s a red, orange, yellow color code showing the same bridges, ranging from most structurally sound to most structurally deficient.

Then he said, “Now I’m going to click on this other layer, which will change the size of these red dots relative to how many human lives go across these most structurally deficient bridges every single day.”

Click.

Finally, he said, “I want to show to you where the Federal dollars for repairing these bridges actually go…”

And with that, he clicked the final key… and the dollars fell all over the place.

Governor Rendell immediately exclaimed, “None of the dollars are landing on the targets!”

And, Jack Dangermond replied, “not yet, but they are all landing on the map!”

The Most Important Truths

Sometimes the most important truths can also be the most obvious – if we know how to look for them.

Our job is to make sure we land the resources on the targets.

That’s what CompStat was about.

This is what CitiStat, and StateStat are about.

It’s what we are now doing in the State of Maryland with BayStat, with VetStat and with JobStat.

And it is a fundamentally different, smarter, and better way of governing for results.

We have also started to see this movement head into the Federal realm.

The way every state, with our federal government, deployed the Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars and tracked them openly online so every citizen could see whether the dollars were landing on the targets.

On the Federal level our BayStat system has been adopted by six other states. Through the EPA, President Obama created something called ChesapeakeStat, where the EPA tracks our efforts to reduce the nitrogen, phosphorous and sedimentary flow into the Bay.

Other new federal evolutions include HUDstat, FEMAstat, and NASAstat.

Greater Degrees of Difficulty

My beloved former chief of staff — and they really only become beloved once they

leave — Matt Gallagher, used to caution all of us that putting a “stat” on the back-end of a word doesn’t make you accomplish things.

That’s especially true in State government.

When you move from municipal government, where everything you do is visible to the eye, to state government — where so many of the things you work on are invisible to citizens — greater degrees of difficulty require greater degrees of collaboration.

And so we’ve had to do some things at a deeper level, broader level.

A few concepts have been essential to that effort.

First, the clear articulation of Strategic Goals with Deadlines. Second, the concept of Delivery. And third, the development of Common Platforms for Progress.

Let me touch on each of these, beginning with the clear articulation of Strategic Goals with Deadlines.

Strategic Goals and Deadlines

In every city, people understand whether their mayor is doing the job or not, because every mayor shares the same basic mission statement: cleaner, safer, healthier, better place for kids.

At the State level, the goals become much more amorphous. Our strategic goals contribute to one larger goal, and that is creating jobs and expanding opportunities.

We believe that the way we do this is to set strategic goals in improving the skills of our people, improving the security of our people, improving the sustainability of our way of life, and improving the health of our people.

Related to this is our use of dashboards. Making sure that any citizen has the executive view that empowers them to see whether their government is actually on target to achieve its goals.

So whether it’s on climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, whether it’s improving by 25 percent our career and college readiness, whether it’s reducing violent crime by 20 percent by the end of 2012—we actually hit 24 percent—every citizen can see what the plan is.

Each of these 16 strategic goals is online. We have set time-bound, interim benchmarks for their attainment. And for each goal we have published and posted on-line a, “Delivery Plan” — which leads me to the concept of “Delivery.”

Delivery

I first heard Michael Barber, who used to work for the Blair government in the United Kingdom, talk about this concept of “Delivery” which he pioneered.

He said, “When you’re responding to a citizen complaint about a pothole, there are three links in that chain. The citizen calls your 311 center to complain about the pothole, crew is dispatched to fix the pothole, crew fixes the pothole. Three links.

“If you’re trying to raise the reading and math scores of third graders throughout your

state, there are a lot more links in that chain.

“There’s the little boy or girl, the parent, teacher, principal, superintendent, county board of education, county government, state superintendent, state board of education, the legislature. Then the Governor. And if any one of those links breaks down, you don’t deliver the goal of raising third grade reading and math scores.”

So we embraced that concept of delivery and we have now integrated it into our performance measurement system. Every Delivery Plan identifies the human links in the chain of responsibility for delivering the public goods we pursue.

We track performance to the plan so that everyone knows when any given link is delivering and when any link is failing to deliver. We account for external variables, we adjust and adapt, all with a view to Deliver.

Common Platforms for Progress

“People make it happen,” legendary American Police Commissioner Bill Bratton observed, “but Common Platforms make it possible.”

Understanding and harnessing the powerful connections in these human chains of delivery requires the building of Common Platforms for Progress.

What is CitiStat? It’s a common platform. What is our energy grid? It is a common platform.

Why this obsession with health IT? Because we need to have a common platform in order to dial up wellness and reduce avoidable hospital room admissions, in order to better manage the chronic conditions of otherwise countless individuals...

Our physical infrastructure – the roads, the highways, interoperable communications, broadband – all common platforms.

Personalized learning through digital education systems – common platforms.

Our watersheds, our riversheds, and landscapes – natural common platforms for life whose health we affect by the choices we make in how we feed, fuel, and heal our world...

Technology has arrived at a point where these common platforms not only facilitate relentless collaborations, but they also allow for crowd-based solutions on a massive scale.

Crowd-based solutions that rise up from the power of individual actions – better informed, better connected, and more deeply aware.

Conclusion

The challenge of our times is enormous.

To create jobs and expand middle-class opportunity at a time when human population growth now depletes world resources faster than our planet can regenerate them. To make the needed change from a global economy of depletion to more localized economies of regeneration.

We can only solve the challenges we face if we better understand the connections that we share. How we produce our food, how we produce our energy, how we heal this planet of ours and improve our security...

We're not going to create a better future if we fear it.

As our challenge is great so, too, is our capacity, our technology and our potential for greater compassion and deeper understanding...

Mindful, individual action is the key.

Action based on awareness, compelled by intention, motivated by a deep preference for a better future, and empowered by a modern, collaborative, performance-driven government.

I'm not dreaming of some utopia here. I'm talking about more effective public administration. I'm talking about the difficult and urgently important work of a second American revolution.

Thank you.



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North American Association for Environmental Educators Award

October 11th, 2013



Baltimore, MD

As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Don.

It is truly an honor to receive this award.

We created the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature in 2008 to connect children with their natural world and to educate them to become responsible stewards of our troubled planet.

Our efforts have been buoyed by amazing partners,...

Our hosts today, NAAEE work nationally and globally to expand opportunities for environmental and outdoor education.

We also want to thank the Blue Sky Funders for recognizing the challenges presented by funding needs and for working together to strengthen Environmental Education locally and nationally.

We also have some Coastal Stewards with us today, young people from the Eastern



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Shore who are really dedicated to educating their community about conservation and restoration.

Also the members of our Partnership: Co- Chairs, DNR Secretary Joe Gill, State Schools Superintendent Lillian M. Lowery, Staff Leads Britt Slattery and Gary Hedges. And partners from organizations like Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Parks and People Foundation, and the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education.

And last, but certainly not least, Congressman John Sarbanes for leading the national effort to ensure No Child is left INSIDE.

The partnership has three main goals:

1. To expand opportunities for young people to have unstructured time in natural settings
2. To expand opportunities for structured outdoor learning through park and public lands programs.
3. To ensure that youth are exposed to the natural environment at school through the development of a state-wide Environmental Literacy plan.

Experiential Learning

Together, in 2011, we made Maryland the first State in the nation to require students to be environmentally literate as a high school graduation requirement. We're also making sure that environmental education is woven throughout disciplines in grades preK-12, including science, social studies, math, language and art.

Last year we launched the Stream Restoration Challenge. This 3-year grant program will award up to \$6 million to organizations to improve water quality while providing opportunities for students in service learning and environmental literacy.

Early results? This past spring 2,800 students earned more than 7,500 service learning credits, planting 46,000 trees. We plan to triple that output over the next two years, with 33,000 students planting 156,000 trees.

Last month we launched "Explore and Restore Your Schoolshed," a statewide initiative where students use the streams and creeks on or near their school properties as outdoor classrooms.

They are not only learning about their local environment – they are taking an active role in improving and protecting stream health. More than 100 schools in 23 counties have signed on.



And our efforts to connect young people with their natural world are not limited to schools. Over the past five years we have graduated 1,800 young people from the Maryland Conservation Jobs Corps. By employing at-risk youth in State Parks, these summer jobs prepare members for green jobs, with meaningful construction, restoration and maintenance projects.

We continue to expand opportunities for parents and mentors to help the young people in their lives connect with nature.

Parks, nature centers, and communities are embracing the Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights as a way to help promote the vast network of opportunities available statewide for children and their families to recreate and learn outdoors.

[Every Maryland child shall have the opportunity to: Discover & connect with their natural world,...Play & learn outdoors,...Splash & swim in the water,... Camp under the stars,... Follow a trail,...Catch a fish,... Watch wildlife,...Explore wild places close to home,... Celebrate their culture & heritage and,... and Share nature with a great mentor or teacher.]

Crowd-based healing

For five years in a row, Maryland has had the #1 schools in the country. We're investing record amounts in those schools, and doing more to hold down the cost of higher education than any other state.

But we know that if we truly wish to prepare our children for the challenges of tomorrow, we must recognize that education is about much more than reading, writing and arithmetic.

At its core, education is about teaching our children to be responsible citizens of the world. It is about instilling in them the ideal that each individual can make a difference, and that each of us must try.

Climate change... Air pollution... Water quality... Natural Resources depletion... are all complex environmental challenges threaten our health, our economy and our environment – the very future of our planet and the lives of future generations.

For our children and theirs to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to address

these complex issues, they must reconnect with their natural world.

We have an opportunity now, because of the common platforms that we have built—with GIS, modern technology, and a more highly developed environmental science than we had 20 years ago—to crowd-source the healing of our world.

And to do it in a way that engages and excites students,... a way that allows them to see the broad impact of their actions.

Our investments in environmental education today, will ensure that our young people graduate high school not only with the intellectual ability to tackle complex environmental challenges – but also with the will and desire to care for and save our planet.



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Konterra Solar Carport Ribbon Cutting

October 15th, 2013



Laurel, MD

It's wonderful to be here with all of you. Tony, thank you for your introduction and your acknowledgement of the fact that when we make better choices, we actually do achieve better results. I want to thank not only Tony but our host, Kingdon Gould, generations one and all. Where is Melissa? You were the one that made this happen. It took the collaborative innovative instinct of the first believer, the pioneer. Thank you for your leadership. It's also wonderful to be here with Craig Moe. Mayor, thank you for the good work that you do. Also Roger Berliner, from the Montgomery

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County Council, has been urging us forward every day in every way.

This is a wonderful event. Konterra's Solar Microgrid is a prime example of Maryland's innovation economy moving forward. Moving forward not only to create a more sustainable way of living, but also moving forward to create jobs. There is no progress without jobs. The development here at Konterra—and the new industry that Konterra is bringing forward with this microgrid—is really important to the future of our State's prosperity and the future of our ability to create greater opportunities for the next generation than our parents had even created for us.

We're here today because climate change and climate disruption is real. We believe as Marylanders that we do better when we embrace a reality-based world. Acknowledge the science, acknowledge the truth of our situation. But as our challenges are great, so too are our opportunities. If we're willing to make the better choices we will achieve better results in improving the skills of our people, the health of our people, the security of our people and the improving the sustainability of our way of life.

Human civilization all around this tiny globe of ours is coming to a deeper understand that we need to move from economies of global depletion to local economies of renewal and local economies of regeneration. That's true not only in terms of the food we eat, that's true not only in terms of the way we protect our health, but it's also true in terms of the way we fuel the needs of our economy, fuel our buildings, fuel our vehicles, and fuel our way of life. The Konterra Solar Project, Maryland's first commercial solar grid storage system, will help us to embrace this better and more prosperous way of moving forward.

That is why the people of Maryland awarded a \$250,000 grant through the Maryland Game Changer Grants. These grants are helping us to prime and support innovative projects like this one, that not only move this particular project forward in a positive way, but really move forward a whole new sector of our economy.

Since 2012, nine different projects have been awarded a total of \$1.9 million in Game Changer Grants, showing that it can actually be done. Innovation is terrific, new ideas are terrific, but what allows those new ideas to spread and to be embraced is to show that they can actually work, to show that someone has actually done it and made it happen. That's why we invested together as a people in these projects.

Since 2007—albeit we moved from a position of next to nothing in the way of solar on our grid—now the exponential increase sounds almost unbelievable. Just in this short period of time, we have multiplied by 1500 the amount of solar on our grid. If you saw that on a graph, it would look like a hockey stick; from nothing, shooting straight up.

There's more to do. That's 2,000 jobs created just so far. But projects like this will allow us to create even more. According to Navigant Research, more than 1,300 gigawatts of wind and solar power generation capacity are anticipated to be brought online in the next 10 years. That will create 10,000 more jobs for Maryland moms and dads in the years ahead.



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Completion of One Maryland Broadband Network

October 15th, 2013



Stevensville, MD

Principal Schrecongost, thank you for your leadership. I consider myself an old friend of Kent Island High School, and I want to thank all of you young men and women for your excellence. I visit a lot of schools, but I rarely visit schools where I see the achievement on the test scores being all up north of 90 percent. And I know that didn't happen without your hard work. Even as other states were cutting education, we actually increased funding, and you guys haven't let us down. So thank you for your hard work.

That's why we're here today, because we also recognize that in order for you to excel, we need to do our job to build infrastructure of the future, which is broadband.

Senator Mikulski, who has been a tremendous leader on this issue in our State for many years and then in the halls of Congress, is here. Also Ken Ulman, our County



Releases

Executive from Howard County, who pulled together the county efforts so that we could have a One Maryland broadband approach.

We were talking to some of your colleagues in the classroom about what it was like before we had broadband, and what it was like afterwards. And we heard all kinds of nightmarish stories about how it would go down, and you couldn't do video on it. So what we're able to celebrate in putting together this network in all of the counties, is a big deal. And it did not happen by itself. It's because of the better choices we made together.

There is no progress without jobs. Together, we've recovered 100 percent of the jobs we lost in the recession. But with all of you graduating in a year, we know that that's just a milestone, that's not the end zone. We still need to do more.

In order to create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments. Educating, yes. Innovating, yes. But also rebuilding the infrastructure that holds it all together. Our schools are part of that infrastructure, our water, our roads, our bridges, our tunnels. And broadband is the new infrastructure. In our One Maryland, we believe that you not only have the right and the need for a world-class education, but you also need to be able to access the markets available all over the world, and the information available from all over the world, that comes with broadband.

So with our federal and local partners, together we've invested \$158 million in our One Maryland Broadband Network. And Senator Mikulski and President Obama, through the Recovery and Investment Act, made sure that Maryland was one of the states that was able—because we were better positioned, because we had done so much ahead of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act—we were able to get one of those grants, so that every single county in our State could be connected. We are the only state that can say that.

497 schools, 58 libraries, 250 public safety facilities, 16 community colleges, 9 higher education medical facilities, medical facilities, community service locations, government service locations. And between every one of those places, are businesses. Large, medium and small, that also need access to global markets so that they can create jobs.

So this is a great day that we're able to celebrate this completion. And your example, what you're doing in science, technology engineering, math, graphic arts, and everything else, is really what this is all about. It's about working for the future, that better future you all deserve.

And there is no harder-working United States Senator in America than the woman I have, now, the honor to introduce. She worked in the halls of Congress, she worked in the Baltimore City Council, and now she is the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. History will record that she is the longest-serving woman ever to serve in the United States Senate. She has a passion for your future and she works hard every day. Please welcome our United States Senator, Barbara A. Mikulski.



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Center For American Progress 10th Anniversary Policy Conference

October 24th, 2013



Washington, D.C.

Good afternoon. Thank you, Neera, for that kind introduction. And congratulations to you, and to John, and to everyone who's been associated with CAP or encouraging CAP for the last 10 years.

CAP's work over the last 10 years has shown us the way forward.

It is the way to a future of greater opportunity for all.

It is a future of more opportunity for our children, not less. More education, not less. More jobs, not less. More freedom, not less. A society that is more open and more inclusive, not less.

This is the future that we're building in Maryland

A future we create by the better choices we make together.



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Together we have made Maryland's public schools the best in the nation now for five years in a row.

Together we have made college education in our state more affordable instead of more expensive.

Together we have accelerated the innovation curve in the new job-creating sectors of life science, biotech, green tech, cybersecurity, global trade, advanced manufacturing.

Together we are rebuilding a 21st century infrastructure of roads, rails, bridges, transit, water, and broadband upon which all commerce and creative business depends.

And we're doing all of this in a fiscally responsible way.

Our approach is a balanced approach – reducing inherited deficits, reforming pension systems, and maintaining a triple-A bond rating all through the brutally hard years of the Bush recession: one of only seven states able to make that claim.

Results

The results, so far, speak for themselves. And while our work continues, we have now recovered 100 percent of the jobs we lost in the national recession. In fact, we're creating jobs at the fastest rate in the region over the last year, and nearly twice as fast as our neighbors in Virginia.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has now for two years in a row named Maryland the #1 State in America for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Our people have earned the highest median income in the country.

And most importantly, we are among the top three states in the nation for upward economic mobility.

Not by chance, but by choice.

Diversity is our greatest strength

You see, the most important asset we have in Maryland is not NIH or even Johns Hopkins – it is the belief we share in the dignity of every individual.

In Maryland, we believe our diversity is our greatest strength and that we all do better when we're all doing better.

More than half of Maryland's population growth (55 percent) since 2000 is due to growing immigrant communities.



Our State is a place where people of many and varied backgrounds are willing to risk action on the faith that their hard work will make a better future – a better future for themselves and their families and their businesses.

The point is this:

Building an Innovation Economy – creating jobs and expanding opportunity – requires more than smart investments, it requires smart and inclusive policies based on the belief we share in the dignity of every individual.

Things like equal rights, inclusion, an open society where all are encouraged to participate, to vote, to work and to create — these choices are also essential for growing a creative, innovative economy.

This is why we're working to close the achievement gap between our low-income students, and their peers.

This is why we have cut the achievement gap between white and black students in elementary school reading and math by more than 25 percent.

Maryland's low-income students, of all races, are now making greater strides in achievement than in any other state.

This is why we've set and exceeded the country's most ambitious goal for minority- and women-owned business participation in State contracts.

Just since 2007, we've increased minority business participation by 70 percent. Our minority businesses now win more than a quarter of all state contracts.

Women now own one-third of all businesses in our State – a higher concentration than in any other state. We now have the lowest gender wage gap of any state, and the third lowest poverty rate among women.

Forbes magazine this year named Baltimore one of the top two metro areas in U.S. for minority entrepreneurs.

Not by chance, but by choice.

One person can make a difference, each of us must try, each of us is needed.

In other states



My friend, Paul Hawken, rightly points out, "Ecologists and biologists know that systems achieve stability and health through diversity, not uniformity. Ideologues take the opposite view."

In other states, narrow ideologies are rolling back voting rights, rolling back women's rights, and rolling back workers' rights.

In Maryland, we want more people to vote, not less. We want more people to participate more fully. We want more people to open businesses, not less. And we want more opportunity, not less.

In other states, they're passing laws that restrict voting, laws that ban civil marriage equality, laws that stigmatize immigrants and limit the dreams and potential of children.

These poor choices, and the poorer results they bring —inequality, exclusivity, intolerance, disparity and division— these poor choices weaken the common good we share, and they weaken our economy.

Sadly, in this year alone, nine different states have passed laws restricting access to the polls. Our neighbors in Virginia will now have to present a photo ID to vote. In North Carolina, they've eliminated same-day registration and cut back on early voting.

These laws are designed to make it more difficult for people to vote, and they disproportionately affect minorities, older Americans, poor people, and young people. By discouraging individual participation, these laws also threaten productivity and creativity – they slow economic growth.

It's hard to think of anything more contrary to the spirit of American democracy than trying to prevent those who disagree with you from having their voice heard.

In another example of putting ideology over economic good, States that continue to block marriage equality rights are not only denying the dignity of same sex couples and the equal protection of their children's homes, but these states are also limiting their job creating potential; they are undermining their own economic competitiveness.

Consider this:

During the recent Supreme Court rulings on same-sex marriage, leading innovation companies rallied behind the right of all couples to be treated equal under the law.

They did this, in part, because it means all employees will receive the same federal benefits. But also because inclusion means they can attract the best talent out there. States that ban same-sex marriage are losing out.

Just this week, the Chamber of Commerce in Indianapolis joined other business groups to oppose a ban on civil unions for same-sex couples. They did this because of how the law would affect Indiana's "competitiveness on a national and global level."

Likewise, States that pursue nativist, "Know Nothing" policies openly hostile to new Americans and immigration reform are also limiting their economic potential and slowing their ability to create the better paying jobs of the future.

In Arizona, extreme immigration enforcement laws led to a \$253 million hit to the tourism industry. In just a year after the law went into effect, more than 2,700 moms and dads lost their jobs.

These laws do nothing to protect American citizens, but they do make states less

attractive for tourism, for trade, and for business expansion.

With the exception of our Native American brothers and sisters, all of our people were once strangers in a strange land. But the dreams we have for our children are purely American.

In Maryland, we passed the DREAM Act, we passed Civil Marriage Equality, and we have made it easier for more people to vote in our elections and to participate in our economy.

Better choices, better results.

Best Days Ahead

Promoting the right to vote, guaranteeing marriage equality, and treating immigrants with respect and dignity..., these things all make Maryland stronger.

Bigotry does not create jobs; division does not expand economic opportunity; isolation kills innovation.

The research of economist Richard Florida, has shown over the years that inclusiveness correlates to more venture capital

Inclusiveness correlates to higher wages.

Full participation – in a society that values diversity – correlates to more start-ups, more innovation, and better paying jobs.

Here at the Center for American Progress, we see an America whose best days are ahead of us.

We see an inclusive America that is, once again, growing her economy, creating jobs and expanding opportunity.

We see a future with a stronger and growing American middle class.

What we want for our children is a country of more opportunity, not a country of less.

What was true for our parents and grandparents is still true for us – we are all in this together, and – economically – we all do better when we are all doing better.



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Maryland League of Conservation Voters: Climate Visionary Award

October 29th, 2013



Annapolis, MD

Carol [Browner], thank you for your leadership, thank you for your voice and thank you for everything that you continue to do with the Center for American Progress. We in Maryland like to think that we are the center of American progress. *(Applause)* It feels that way tonight, doesn't it?

It is so wonderful to be here with all of you. I've had such a flood of memories because of the things that we've been able to accomplish together—the important, life-giving work that we've been able to do together over these last seven years...

Let me thank a few people tonight before I trip down memory lane here. I want to thank Karla Raettig and also Tony Caligiuri. I also want to thank the tremendous work of Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown and all of the members of this O'Malley-Brown Administration. Over these last seven years—with your help, and with your support, and with your guidance, your encouragement, oftentimes your cajoling—they have been able to clear so many hurdles and do so many important things.

Releases

My brother, Peter O'Malley, is here with us tonight. Peter, thank you for everything you do. And his wife Mindy—thank you, Mindy for letting Peter play with us from time to time. *(Laughter)*

I know I speak for my brother when I say that some of the happiest moments of our childhood days were spent on the Eastern Shore when our dad would take us there. *(Applause)* We've got some Eastern Shore people here. Peter I think that you and I will always be able to look back with great pride on the things we did for the beauty of this place that our dad taught us to love and to value.

I also want to thank Gene Karpinski. Gene, it's great to have you here in Annapolis. And Bob Perciasepe, we're very proud of you and everything you're doing. Thank you, my friend.

I am very humbled to be standing in the company of somebody who has accomplished as much as my friend, Chairwoman Maggie McIntosh. Everything you've done as chair, Maggie, has lighted our way, so thank you. Also Dru Schmidt Perkins. Dru knew me when the only two endorsements I had in running for State Senate was the UAW and the league of Conservation Voters. *(Applause)* We were doing the blue-green coalition before it was cool, back in those days.

I also want to thank Speaker Mike Busch. Mike, I leaned over to Carol while you were speaking, and I said that I am so very, very lucky that I was able to serve alongside of you in the time I was able to serve the people of this State. *(Applause)*

The Wholeness of Our Work

So, here's the message.

The message is one of thanks. And a tremendous amount of humility in knowing that what we've accomplished, and this award that you give me tonight, is really a reflection of your work, and of the goodness of the people that I have been able to serve these years. Governor Glendening and Governor Hughes before him—these public servants, these servant leaders have carried this ball down the field. And we have made our Bay healthier. This year, the Bay showed that she was getting a little healthier rather than a little sicker.



We're inclined to say, "The Bay's health improved." But that Bay's health didn't just improve. You improved it—through individual, mindful, aware action—in concert with others—to reduce the nitrogen, the phosphorous, and the sedimentary flow into her rivers and her streams and her creeks. For that reason, you have made the Chesapeake Bay healthier. *(Applause)*

And what's more, ladies and gentlemen, even with the things that we have done—important, needed things that had to happen—as the health of the Bay improved, Maryland over the last 12 months also led the region in the rate of new jobs created.

Think about this. We were nowhere in terms of green jobs a few years ago. Now, we've grown green jobs at the fastest rate of any state in the country. More than an 18 percent increase just between 2010 and 2011.

Not only have you created the best schools in the country, not only have you achieved the highest median income in the country, not only have you achieved the fastest rate of new job creation of any state in the region—you have also managed to lead all of the states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed not just in hopes and prayers for progress on the Bay, but you have taken action to achieve timely, measureable outputs. Actions measured over the landmass of this watershed so that we can actually improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. That's a big shift, and you've done that. *(Applause)*

We've made progress on our goals, and in some cases we have reached our goals ahead of schedule. I had my able staff print out the list, but the list is way too long to recite tonight. More importantly, it's not about the list, is it? It's about the wholeness of our work. It's about the understanding that as we make the Bay healthier, we also make our State a better and kinder, more caring place. We make it a more prosperous place.

This false, old-world view that it's an either-or between a healthier Bay or more jobs—either you're for the environment or you're for business—all of that stuff, all of that ideology that still spews out from our brothers and sisters in the once-proud party of Lincoln, is a sort of duality that no longer serves us. You're going to hear people spewing that stuff in this upcoming election too, retreading that same tired old message—even from some Democrats.

We have to become larger-minded than that.

Because the truth is, we cannot become more prosperous, if we are not more mindful of the other living systems upon which our prosperity depends.

What good is it for us to increase our consumption and our so-called productivity if we no longer have a Bay? If we no longer have air to breathe? If we no longer have clean water? If our children cannot walk through streams and see other living things?

We've done so many positive things over these last few years, but I would submit to you the most positive thing of all is to realize that all of these things are connected. It's not just about the Bay. It's not just about climate change. It's not just about reducing homicides and violent crime.

It's about doing all of those things together.

Life and Death Hard

None of this is easy. And all of this has entailed struggle. But, please—as we debate these issues, and as we wrestle with these issues, and as we revisit why it is we need to prevent stormwater runoff and the poison that runoff poses to the Bay—don't confuse a lack of knowledge with malice. A lot of our neighbors don't know that stormwater actually damages the Bay. They've been fed a whole line of stuff that some of their public servants wake up every morning, and man, the only thing we want to do is increase regulations and make people pay more.

But our neighbors are not malicious. They want to know.

Quite frankly, the best wind in our sails is really a more knowledgeable and a more mindful and a more aware populace.

That's why we worked so hard to pass environmental literacy for our schools and to integrate environmental literacy into all the other subjects they need to learn. It's why we've worked so hard to now expand and deepen that consciousness with Schoolshed, so that kids can actually explore the streams that run by their own schools and take on the responsibility of improving the health of those streams—over time—by expanding stream buffers, by planting Bay grasses and doing the things we know will improve the health of our rivers.

All of these things are connected. All of these things are hard. None of these things are easy. They all involve controversy. And you know what, it is hard... It is life and death hard.

We should consider ourselves lucky, frankly. Here in Maryland, we have often found ourselves at the center of the greatest movements, in the times of the greatest struggle. Those times that require a people really to stretch and to be able to hold the creative tension that allows our country to move forward.

Those times are here again.

Together we have to continue this life-giving and job-creating work to heal our planet and to slow the very real threat of climate change. We do that not by hoping, not by just wishing. We do that by acting. To increase our renewable portfolio standard. By imagining and creating a zero-waste future for our State. By moving to zero-emissions vehicles. By investing in our public transit systems. By planting more trees. By making good on our Region Greenhouse Gas Initiative commitments.

And in the process of doing those things we are going to create tens of thousands of jobs here in Maryland. *(Applause)*

In God We Trust

The liberating part about this work is this: No one else is going to do this for us.

We get to do it ourselves.
(Laughter)

That is the role we play here, where the land and the water come together in such a life-giving way.



We have a planet to save and jobs to create.

The urgent transformation before us is not just about Maryland, which is what makes it so exciting.

We need to move from global economies of depletion to local economies of regeneration. *(Applause)*

That's why this is so important.

What we stand for is what we stand on.

Restoring the health of the Bay, and restoring the health of our democracy are one and the same work.

It's about better choices for better results.

And, yes, in God we trust.

In God we trust. *(Applause)*

Conclusion

Conclusion...I have become very fond of paddleboarding in this State.

It is a great sport for old people... *(Laughter)* because it challenges one's balance and it gets you out there in the middle of nature.

So Margaret McHale and Ashley Valis and John Griffin and Bob Summers and—some of our senators are here—Sen. Pinskey and Sen. Frosh: When I'm out there, I see all sorts of things when I'm alone on the board.

I see menhaden, and I see crabs, and I see oysters, and I see rockfish.

But when I look a little deeper into the water, I also see reflected back at me the eyes of each and every one of you. I see the hearts and the future of our children.

We are a river flowing.

There are so many people that have sacrificed so much more for what we have than we have yet been called upon to do.

We should consider it a privilege every day to wake up in this State, to call the Chesapeake our home.

In a special closing "dedication" to my new Chief of Staff and former Secretary of natural Resources, John Griffin—who asked for this—I leave you with this bit of local verse from Gilbert Byron.

"From Chesapeake men I come

These men a sun-tanned, quiet breed,

With eyes of English blue

And faces lined with many a watch of sunlit waters.

These men with cautious mouths and lazy strides;

Grizzled chinned, hip-booted, oil-skinned men.

These men, they fear the Chesapeake,

And yet they would not leave her.

Down to the Bay they go:

...They seek the imperial shad, the lowly crab,

The oyster, the weakfish, the turtle

The rockfish, the muskrat, the eel

The terrapin diamond-backed...

And food for their souls which they sometimes find.

In the calling of the wild duck,

In the mating of the King Fisher,

In the sloughing of the soft crab,

In the softness of the water's touch,

In the flight of the great blue heron,

In the sculling of the oar,

In the passing schools of fish,

In the belly of the sail,

In the hauling of the seine,

In the taste of oysters raw,

Or in the soaring fish-hawk's wing,

In the touch of southwest wind,

In the little waves that break,

In the surge against the prow,

In the cliffs of yellow clay

In the setting of the sun

In the quest of quiet harbor—

In the Chesapeake”

(Applause)

—End—



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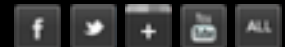


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Weissberg Forum for Discourse in the Public Square: Immigration

November 5th, 2013

Good evening.
Mike Ulrich, NYU and the Global Academic Center, thank you for hosting this discussion tonight.

It is great to see former Congressman Bruce Morrison here this evening – who has done so much to advance the cause of immigration reform for a stronger America.



I want to share a few thoughts with you as we begin this conversation on immigration and America's on-going journey.

I want to talk with you about the very universal and American idea of full participation.

Most of our families have a story that began somewhere else.

My immigrant great-grandfather, whose name was also Martin O'Malley, came to this country from Ireland.

His native tongue was not English, but the hopes and dreams he had for his children were purely American.

He and many of his fellow New Americans worked hard and risked their lives in the mines of southwest Arizona.

What they worked for, what they were willing to sacrifice and sometimes die for, was the ability to give their children a country of more opportunity and not a country of less.

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More, not less

We believe in Maryland that diversity is our greatest strength. We believe that we all do better when we're all doing better.

My friend, Paul Hawken, puts in more scientific terms. He writes, "Ecologists and biologists know that systems achieve stability and health through diversity, not uniformity. Ideologues take the opposite view."

Why – in the State of Maryland – are we investing record amounts in our public schools? Why are we doing more than any other state to hold down the cost of college education? Why did we set and exceed the most ambitious goals in the country for minority-owned business contracting?

In a word, "opportunity"; in two words, "more opportunity"; in four words, "more opportunity for all."

You see, the happy fact of American democracy is – the more fully a person participates in the economic, social, and civic life of our Nation, the stronger it makes our Country.

When all can fully participate, then every individual has a chance to advance and expand the common good that we all share.

Father David Hollenbach of Boston College writes, "Achieving this good calls for a common life in which freedom is more fully shared, for a society in which all people more fully participate in the common goods that can be achieved in their social, political, and economic activity together."

For our own good,...We want more people to participate more fully.

For our our family's good,...We want more people to vote.

For our own children's good,... We want more students to excel in school and go to college, we want more families to be economically secure, and we want more people to be able to open businesses and create jobs.

These things strengthen our democracy. They strengthen our economy. They strengthen the fiscal health of our country. These things make our country more secure.

Political life

We have a chance, with the comprehensive immigration reform bills in Congress, to put America on a more prosperous path – a path of fuller participation in our Democracy.

We can bring 11 million New Americans out the shadows and into the light of our Democracy. Where they can vote. Where they can open businesses and create jobs. Where they can lend their voices and their skills to weaving the the fabric of a growing democracy – our Democracy.

The Congressional Budget Office has done the math, and immigration reform means a growing economy,... and a shrinking deficit.

In the first 10 years following comprehensive immigration reform, the CBO projects we would shrink the deficit by \$200 billion. In the second 10 years, by \$700 billion.

Immigrants are almost twice as likely as native-born Americans to start a new business. Businesses that support families, create jobs, and expand opportunity in communities across the country.

By keeping 11 million immigrants in the shadows, we are missing out. By putting those new Americans on the path to full citizenship, full participation, full responsibility – empowering them to achieve their full potential – we could create up to 203,000 new jobs per year, and up to \$1.4 trillion boost to GDP.



Economic life

More than half of Maryland's population growth since 2000—55 percent—is due to growing immigrant communities, compared to 30 percent nationally.

These New Americans disproportionately fill highly-skilled positions. In 2006, 27 percent of Maryland's scientists, 21 percent of health care practitioners, 19 percent of mathematicians and computer specialists were foreign-born.

Maryland has now achieved the number one schools, the number one median income, and the highest rate of job creation in our region. For two years in a row the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has ranked Maryland the number one state in America for innovation and entrepreneurship. These things did not happen by chance, they happened by choice.

In 2008, we created the Maryland Council for New Americans. Through this council, we're tackling the challenges faced by many New Americans—English proficiency, job training, the transfer of professional credentials, starting on the path to becoming a citizen.

In 2011, we passed the Maryland DREAM Act, so that our 36,000 Dreamers could have access to affordable higher education.

Some who disagreed with us petitioned that law to the ballot. The good people I have the honor to serve upheld it last year,... and Maryland became the first state in the country to pass a DREAM Act through popular vote.

This year, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill that makes permanent our two-tier driver's license system so people obtain insurance and drive to work safely and without endangering others.

More secure country

Participation, civic engagement, and inclusion – these things also make our Republic safer.

Recently, I chaired a task force for former Homeland Secretary, Janet Napolitano, on how to counter violent homegrown extremism.

We found that public-private partnerships designed to promote civic engagement can be the cornerstone of efforts to prevent violent criminal activity,...

When we marginalize and alienate, our entire State, our entire country, becomes less safe. Social exclusion breeds pockets of disconnected entities. Extremism thrives in these shadows of our democracy.

Partnerships like our New Americans Citizenship project with CASA de Maryland. Or our resettlement centers in Baltimore and Silver Spring, where refugees, asylees and trafficking victims can access resources from health screenings to job training and placement.

We also found that law enforcement must be part of those partnerships. The relationship between communities and local law enforcement must be built before an ideologically-motivated crime occurs. The first time that we—as a State—engage a new immigrant community should not be after a tragedy.

When people vote,...when people feel that their hard work can make the American Dream possible for their children,... then they have a share in this Republic that they will defend with their lives.

Conclusion

Hospitality to strangers is not an American invention.

Hospitality to strangers is a deep and timeless value of human dignity found in the parables, teachings, and stories of every faith tradition – the three strangers who visit Sarah and Abraham, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the Haditha story of the Prophet and the feeding of the strangers. "And God smiled."

But hospitality to strangers and full participation in the life of our Democracy, is an indispensable part of the genius of this opportunity-expanding experiment we love and call, The United States of America.

This is the truth of E Pluribus Unum—from the participation of many individuals comes the strength of one strong and living Republic.

Every person is needed, and each of us must try.

For truly there is no such thing as a spare American.

Thank you, I look forward to our conversation.



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Veterans Day Commemoration 2013

November 11th, 2013



Washington, D.C.

Here, today, at the World War II Memorial,... encircled by granite stones of American honor ,... we pause this morning — as one Nation — to pay tribute to our Veterans. Theirs was a clear and epic struggle — a struggle that would determine whether or not “this government of the people, by the people and for the people,” would “perish from the earth.”

Seventy two years ago, my parent’s generation found our Nation plunged into World War.

Brother. Father. Citizen. Soldier. American.

Hear the “Fanfare for the Common Man.”

Son.

The little name a mother called once.



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Each was asked a question.

At Anzio or Iwo Jima,... in the snows of Korea, or the jungles of Viet Nam,... in the deserts of Iraq or the mountains of Afghanistan,... in the blood drenched fields of Gettysburg, or in the frozen mud of Valley Forge,... freedom asked a question.

“For family,... for neighbors,... for generations you will never meet,... for one Nation under God,... how big is your love?...”

Our duty this morning is not to lift their service higher.

No personal tribute or failing of ours – no filibuster or shutdown – can touch the gift, already ascending, far beyond our earthly reach.

Our duty is not to lift higher, but to dig deeper; to search through the shadows of our current doubts.

To rediscover our own true selves.

To find within us the power greater than the individuals we are.

To seek and touch a stronger truth.

A truth to heal the heart of our Democracy.

A truth that still abides.

A truth that calls us to their “unfinished work.”

You see, our parents and grandparents understood well the essence we share as Americans.



It is the truth that lies at the heart of the American Dream.

The stronger we make our country, the more she gives to us; the more she gives to our children and to our grandchildren.

The Veterans we honor today did not serve – did not fight and die – so their grandchildren could grow up in a country of less.

They gave to us a larger and stronger country.

A country of more opportunity... more freedom... more justice. A country of more.

A country that we now have the ability to pass forward to our own grandchildren – if we chose – even stronger and better than they gave her to us.

For the country they carried in their hearts was no small or fading thing.

The future they created was far larger than themselves or even their own generation.

The love they freely gave us was an everlasting love,... expansive,... resounding,... and big.

And so must it be with us.

For the on-going, life-giving work of The United States of America is not finished.

The duty to preserve, protect and defend is not the exclusive fate or franchise of one generation – however great.

It is the freedom of every generation.

It is the responsibility of every generation.

It is the greatness that calls to each of us.

May God bless the souls of all brave men and women – past, present, and future – whose love for others proves them worthy to be called, “Americans.”



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National League of Conservation Voters Annual Dinner

November 13th, 2013

**New York, NY***As prepared for delivery*

Good evening. It's great to be here with all of you tonight. Karla, thank you very much for all that you do in Maryland. Gene and Scott, it's great to be here with you.

The Showtime series *Years of Living Dangerously* is a brilliant and much needed call to action. Thank you. And our children thank you.

What we saw tonight, and what we see in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, tell us one thing for sure: climate disruption is not a prediction. It is here.

The Problem

Climate change is not an ideological issue any more than gravity is. It is physics, pure and simple.

The carbon dioxide content of our earth's atmosphere is higher now than it has been

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at any time in 3 million years.^[i]

More than 3,500 national weather records were broken for heat, rain, and snow last year.^[ii]

Climate change is the transformation that transforms everything.

It requires a transformation of education and language, of mobility and our connection to each other, of farming and forestry, of buildings, energy and cities.

It requires a change in perception that brings forth new solutions and new behavior.

It requires a new way of talking with one another.

And it requires a transformation of imagination.

Change

Today, science is catastrophizing the future.

For good reason—the data support it.

The problem is this: catastrophizing the future—drawing straight-line projections to hell—makes deniers look optimistic and turns science into the problem.

We have become good, haven't we, at imagining the end of the world, but not so good at imagining a new beginning.

We need LCV to bring forth leaders. Leaders who understand facts. Leaders who communicate possibility. Leaders who take action. Leaders who create a life-giving future.

Today, change and progress come from our nation's State Houses.

When communities face the consequences of climate disruption—drought, flooding, tornadoes and hurricanes—it is governors and local leaders who are on the scene.

Climate Change and Maryland

A Philippine survivor in Tacloban Island said this of Typhoon Haiyan: "The sea engulfed us."^[iii]

Heat plus oceans. Physics again—pure and simple.

With our miles of coastline, Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the nation to the impacts of climate change.

Sea levels along our 3,200 miles of coastlines are rising three to four times faster than the global average.^[iv] Thirteen islands in the Chesapeake have now been swallowed up entirely.^[v]

Coastline or not, every state shares the urgency of this moment. Every state is threatened; every state is needed.

This is not a matter of hoping or wishing.

We need to act: reduce energy consumption, increase renewable standards; create

a zero-waste future; move zero-emissions vehicles onto the street; invest in our public transit systems; plant millions of trees; and make good on our greenhouse gas commitments.

By doing these things we are creating tens of thousands of jobs in Maryland.[\[vi\]](#)

We were nowhere in terms of green jobs a few years ago. Today, we're creating green jobs at the fastest rate of any state in the country.[\[vii\]](#)

Progress

Since 2006, we have reduced peak electricity demand by 10 percent.[\[viii\]](#) We have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 18 percent.[\[ix\]](#) We have increased renewable energy by 36 percent.[\[x\]](#)

Education Week Magazine has named Maryland the best school system in America for five years running[\[xi\]](#); we're one of the top three States in the country for upward economic mobility[\[xii\]](#); and we've achieved the fastest rate of new job creation of any state in our region.[\[xiii\]](#)

And for two years in a row now, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has named Maryland the #1 state in America for Innovation and Entrepreneurship[\[xiv\]](#).

These accomplishments give lie to the assertion that there is an "either/or" choice between our prosperity and our environment—that we can create either a future where there are more jobs, or a future where there is a healthy environment, but not both.

The reality is the two goals are indivisible.

The better future we seek is vastly connected and interdependent.

The web of life, though endlessly complex, is seamless.

Our children's future is not about the pieces. It is about the whole.

What we seek is life, and we seek it more abundantly.

There is no independent salvation on this planet.

We are one habitat.

We cannot become more prosperous without the living systems upon which our prosperity depends.

What good is it for us to increase our consumption if we no longer have air to breathe? Or clean water to drink? Or rainfall for our crops? Or shorelines to walk upon?



The economy we choose—the economies we create—can either steal the future and pretend it is economic growth, or heal the future by investing in life-giving actions, companies, initiatives and technologies.

Conclusion

Author Jonathan Lear in his book about the Crow People called *Radical Hope* described how the Crow struggled to re-imagine themselves after being stripped of their lands, their way of life, and their culture.

After being placed on a small reservation, unable to hunt and not knowing how to farm, a tribal member said: “I am trying to live a life I do not understand.”

The Crow had to find new concepts with which to construct a living narrative.

Radical hope drives belief. Belief drives action—action intent on reaching a future goodness—a goodness that transcends our present ability to understand how it could come to be.

We human beings are problem-solving animals.

We can create a new narrative. We will solve this. There is a future goodness.

And it is possible because it is within each of us.

The most positive thing of all is to realize that all of our actions are in fact connected.

It’s not just about climate change. It’s not just about restoring natural resources like the Chesapeake Bay. It’s not just about reducing homicides and violent crime. It’s not just about improving education.

It’s about doing all of those things together.

And doing them now.

Thank you—each of you—for your tireless work on behalf of life and our future.

What we stand for is what we stand on.

[i] The Keeling Curve, which measures the proportion of carbon dioxide in the earth’s atmosphere, surpassed 400 parts per million in 2013. Scientists estimate that this is the first time carbon has reached 400ppm since the Pliocene era 3 million years ago.

[ii] 3,527 monthly weather records were broken nationwide in 2012; 18 of those records were broken in Maryland according to a National Resources Defense Council [study](#).

[iii] CBS News, 11/9: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57611622/typhoon-haiyans-death-toll-rises-in-philippines/

[iv] In July 2012, the U.S. Geological Survey published research in Nature Climate

Change documenting that over the last 20 years, sea levels along the 1,000 kilometer stretch of coast running north from Cape Hatteras to north of Boston, which includes the State of Maryland, have risen at an annual rate three times to four times faster than the global average.

[v] As of 2011, 13 islands in the Chesapeake Bay once mapped on nautical charts had disappeared beneath Bay waters. Many islands in the Bay and some further offshore are also likely to disappear in the next century as sea levels continue to rise.

[vi] Bureau of Labor Statistics, “[Employment in Green Goods and Services – 2011.](#)”

[vii] Bureau of Labor Statistics, “[Employment in Green Goods and Services – 2011.](#)”

[viii] Maryland drove down per capita electricity peak demand by 10.8 percent from 2007 to 2012. <https://data.maryland.gov/goals/energy-efficiency>

[ix] Maryland reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 18 percent against the 2006 baseline if the Administration had taken no action. <https://data.maryland.gov/goals/greenhouse-gases>

[x] Maryland drove up its renewable energy generation by 36% since 2007. At the end of 2007 renewable energy accounted for only 5.8% of Maryland’s total energy generation; by the end of 2012 renewable energy grew to 7.9% of Maryland’s total energy generation. <https://data.maryland.gov/goals/renewable-energy>

[xi] Education Week. “Quality Counts,” http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2013/state_report_cards.html

[xii] Pew Center on the States, May 2013. <http://www.pewstates.org/research/data-visualizations/economic-mobility-of-the-states-85899381539>

[xiii] Bureau of Labor Statistics, “[Employees on nonfarm payrolls by state and selected industry sector, seasonally adjusted.](#)”

[xiv] US Chamber of Commerce. “Enterprising States: Getting Down to Small Business,” April 2013. <http://foundation.uschamber.com/PDF/ES2013.pdf> and US Chamber of Commerce. “Enterprising States: Policies that Produce,” June 2012. <http://foundation.uschamber.com/PDF/ES2012.pdf>



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NewDEAL Leaders Conference

November 22nd, 2013



Washington, D.C.

Good morning. I'm glad all of you behaved last night so you could be up early today.

It's wonderful to be with all of you, and I want to thank Helen for her inspiration of pulling together the NewDEAL leaders.

I think this group is really, really important. We've communicated with each other a lot more electronically and empathetically than we have in person. But there's no substitute for getting together and we're sharing what we're learning as each of us pursue our own piece of writing a new American story. So it's great to be with all of you.

This week for me has felt like that Wide World of Sports – the thrill of victory, the agony of defeat. I was with a lot of friends up in New Hampshire, we had a great weekend, terrific dinner. There's something really positive going on in New Hampshire right now – I think it has to do with the fact that their entire Congressional delegation and gubernatorial and statewide offices are held by women. (Applause.)

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And so then after that great weekend, I came back resumed my wrestling with the three-headed hydra of the Maryland Health Exchange, had 14 or 15 more correctional officers indicted in the jail that we run in Baltimore City as part of our ongoing anti-corruption efforts.

And so thanks to the good and responsive work of our U.S. Attorney's Office we went after that and gained some traction. I can't say we've improved, and it's ugly stuff, but we don't get elected just to deal with the fun things, right? We get elected to sail right into the difficult things.

And then – what else do we have, Keiffer [Mitchell]? Oh, and then we had our latest month of job creation numbers came out and showed that there were job losses, rather than a positive month of job creation.

So I said to my able Chief Administrative Officer, "Boy, there's a lot of highs and lows in this governing stuff, isn't there?"

And he texted back to me, "Yeah, the trick is not to get too high on the highs and not to allow the lows to make you too low." So it's wonderful to end this week with being with all of you.

I want to thank Craig Silliman, and Mark Begich, our able leader. Is Bill Cole here? I mentioned Keiffer and Bill Ferguson. Where's Bill Cole? Okay, well, two demerits for not waking up early. Hans Riemer, where's Hans Riemer. Wow, that will reflect poorly on this year's allocation of State construction dollars. I'll remember this. (Laughter.)

It's hard to believe that in just a couple of years – we launched when, 2011? How many members did we have then? We started with 10. And now we have 112, I understand. Congratulations to those of you who have been tapped and recruited. A little bit of a consolation for you, most of the people that have been NewDEAL people have won their re-elections after being acknowledged as NewDEAL people. So I think they have a great success rate.

This whole day is really about smarter Government, investing in growth and expanding opportunity. And I just thought I'd share a few thoughts with you.

I want to share with you at least our perspective in Maryland and in Baltimore and our journey. The sort of growth this organization has had over the last couple of years, I think, is an indication also of where the strength of our party is and where the future of our country is. And that's in cities like Denver and Minneapolis and other big metro areas. I believe that what we see happening in our cities, our counties, our towns, is a bubbling up, if you will, of a new way of leadership, a new way of leadership that is not ideological, hierarchical and bureaucratic as our parents' generation was accustomed to experiencing.

But a new way of leadership that's fundamentally entrepreneurial, that asks the question not whether it takes us left or right, but whether or not it moves us forward. Its way is not hierarchal, that sort of triangle on its end, but it's more of a circle on its side. It is collaborative, it is open, it is transparent, it's real time and it's real fast. And it is relentlessly and indelibly performance measured.



So some of the most essential leadership and imagination in our country, is now coming from the states and the local governments. And none of us is an island, and, in fact, we're all in this together.

I emailed those of you – a number of you – a couple of pieces, so I'm just going to read little bits of it today. One is this fascinating little essay by a woman named Betty Sue Flowers on the American myth and the economic dream. And there's some really clear and insightful language in this. Betty Sue Flowers is a professor of literature, with an emphasis on mythology. And she talks about mythology as that context, that story, if you will, which makes sense of our shared story and our actions within it. Many of the myths are heroic myths, slaying the dragon and those sorts of things.

But she also explores this whole notion of growth, because we are practitioners constantly looking for tight little inclusive ways to define ourselves to the people that we are serving so that they can make sense of our way of leadership.

A lot of us are fond of talking about pro-growth policies, yet at the same time on a deeper level we acknowledge that not all growth is good growth, right? Sometimes short term growth leads to long-term loss.

And so there's a couple of things from her at the outset here. She writes, "The economic myth has at its base the ideal of growth, bigger or more is better. Implicit in much of our language about growth is the kind of early Darwinian notion of natural selection; the strong survive and grow, while the weak inevitably, naturally, and therefore rightly, are weeded out. Like all myths, the economic myth allows for some possibilities and not for others."

She goes on, "In short, we cannot expect the economic myth that shapes our society to foster the ideals of individual responsibility that the hero myth embodies, or to encourage the ideals of community the religious myth promoted, or to emphasize the pursuit of a common good that the democratic myth supported. And

yet, these ideals of responsibility, community and the common good are absolutely necessary for the health of a civic spirit.”

The challenge of our times, of course, is enormous, isn't it? To create jobs, and not only jobs, but actually better jobs, more opportunity, to expand opportunity. And as our challenges are great, in terms of climate change, resource scarcity, greater global competition, especially in the labor market, our imagination – the power of our imaginations is also great.

We believe in Maryland to create jobs and expand new opportunity at this time when human population growth now depletes the world's resources faster than she can regenerate them, requires indeed a lot of imagination. And to make the needed change from global economies that deplete to global economies of regeneration, we do subscribe to the belief that these things won't happen by themselves. That what is required is a restoration of that balance of investments necessary for job growth and expanded opportunity.

And what is also required – especially now in this transformative time when everybody has the information of the world on their communications device – what's also required is a modernizing of our Government, right? To make it more efficient, to make it more effective, to make it more responsive. Even as the world is becoming more complex, our people also expect their Government to be more personalized in how it works, in how it sees them, in how it allows them to participate in the fullness of a free and open society.

So we believe, as many of you do, when it comes to making our Government work, strategic goals or deadlines are critically important. What's the difference between a goal and a dream? It's a deadline, right? Wishes are nice, hopes are nice, but setting goals, tying deadlines to them – leaders make themselves vulnerable in order to achieve meaningful and lasting things in order to pull people together.

So we track the progress openly and online for all to see. Our CitiStat method is something that many cities embrace, including Denver, right? I think Peak Performance is what we call it in Denver.

And in State Government, where a lot of the decisions happen in that middle range, less visible, but nevertheless even more broadly impactful, we made better choices in order to deliver better results.

We have been replacing the silos of never with common platforms. Common platforms that harness the power of individual actions, that allow the synergies and the plays to be run.

StateStat, BayStat, health IT, digital education systems, longitudinal data tracking systems of our students, all these things are common platforms and they're emerging so quickly because of technologies being close to the canvas, we're not even aware of it but it really is transforming how we govern ourselves as a people.

We've arrived at a point where these common platforms not only facilitate relentless collaborations, but now they offer the possibility of crowd-based solutions. One of the examples of this we recently launched in Maryland's Schoolshed, where we have challenged all of our schools to adopt the creeks and streams that run through their catchment area of their schools. So the kids take on this environmental

literacy, experiential learning, by actually doing things like expanding stream buffers. And doing the other things, the rim gardens and the like that allows them to appreciate the importance of saving and preserving the other living systems, upon which our lives depend.

None of this happens by itself. So the investments are critically important, too. We have 16 strategic goals and the number one goal is job creation, right? There is no progress without jobs. And the innovations in the other four goal areas of sustainability, security and skills of our people and health, those are the innovations that drive the new solutions that create the new jobs and opportunities.

So, yes, as President Herve praised President Obama, it is about educating, innovating, and rebuilding the 21st century infrastructure. In Maryland, we're investing record amounts in our schools, more than we ever have. In fact, we've cut everything else, but the one area that we increased has been education. So for five years in a row, Education Week magazine named us number one public schools in America. That never happened in the better times. But we're able to achieve that even in the midst of the recession.



We went four years in a row with a zero percent increase in college tuition for kids in-state. For those of you that are practitioners, by the way, that was our number one polling persuadable with people over 65. Interesting, huh?

We're changing the way we improve the skills of our people, switching to a market-driven system, employer-driven system of skills training for jobs. And we have a number of jobs that, of course like in all of our states, we have the jobs and we don't have the skills to fill them. So biotech, green tech, cyber security, we're targeting those skill pipelines. We've increased the number of STEM graduates coming out of our schools and higher education. That, too, is a sub-goal. We could spend the tax credits in some of these key emerging sectors.

And we are also – beyond the education and the innovations we've made, we'll talk a little bit about some of the other things that we're doing on the education front. Changing the tenure track in higher ed so that professors are awarded for commercialization instead of just for publishing. We auctioned for some companies to forward pay their tax liabilities at a discount rate, \$85 million that we are using as a venture fund for these emerging industries.

And it all appears to be working on the jobs front. Another of these things that we've done is investing in modern infrastructure. President Obama helped us with \$115 million broadband grant that was part of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act. At the Port of Baltimore, we did the largest public and private partnership in the country in 2009 so the Port of Baltimore could accommodate the larger ships coming in via the Panama Canal.

We have also recently – just this last legislative session – and some of our people, Delegate Mitchell and Senator Burch, probably have the scars to prove it – we took the 1992 flat cap, off of our gas tax and, yes, we actually increased the gas tax. The hated gas tax.

Isn't it interesting that you go to the board rooms of your business people and they're unanimously in favor of raising the gas tax? And then any community meeting you go to, they're unanimously opposed to ever raising the gas tax?

But it needed to be done. So now we're making greater investments in our transportation infrastructure, including transit. And hopefully moving forward with the Purple Line here in the Washington area and then the Red Line up in Baltimore, in some way, shape or form.

So all of that also goes to that top line goal of jobs.

The results. Results. All of that sounds good, right? We say it everywhere, but the results are these. Our people achieved the fastest rate of new job growth of any of the states in our region last year. In fact, it was 88 percent higher than our good neighbors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Though, I know now with a Governor, you guys will be giving us a run for our money, so competition is good.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce – hardly a mouthpiece for the O'Malley/Brown administration or the Maryland Democratic party – has named us now two years in a row, the number one State in America for innovation and entrepreneurship. The Pew Center on the States in their study named us one of the top three states in the nation for upward economic mobility and our people now are in the highest median income in the country.

Another piece that I emailed to you, as I wrap up here, and as we open it up here for discussion, is by a guy named Nick Hanauer – have you all heard of Nick Hanauer? A great book called, *The Gardens of Democracy* that he wrote with Eric Liu, who used to work in the Clinton White House.

It's really good, it's almost like a compendium of Thomas Payne pamphlets, making sense of this moment and where we're finding ourselves in our journey as Americans. I just wanted to read to you this piece that he calls *Capitalism Redefined*.

He says, “Our great country is knit together by the American dream. The idea that if we work hard and play by the rules we’ll have a better life than our parents, that our children will have a better life than we did. Indeed, the golden age of American capitalism in the 1950s and ‘60s was not so much marked by the accumulation of great fortunes, but by the mass dispersal of new solutions to human problems that virtually every American family enjoyed – houses, cars, televisions, dishwashers, good schools. It was also a period of great investment in research and infrastructure and a period of opening up of opportunities to minorities and women that greatly increased the diversity and the problem-solving power of our society.

“We believe deeply in the core of the American dream, not just because it is a moral imperative, but also because it’s the surest way to build prosperity for every American.”

And the gist of the piece is that a nation builds up a wealth that’s defined for a nation by that dispersion, that creation of solutions to human challenges and human problems.

So, in conclusion, we’re meeting on the 50th anniversary of a very heartbreaking day in our history. Some of you are old enough to remember that day maybe. I don’t remember it distinctly, I was 10 months old.

But when President Kennedy died, his ideas of what it means to be an American, what it means to actually risk action on the faith that you can make even more real the American dream, those things did not die.

And I’ll leave you with something he said in 1960. He said, “I believe in human dignity as the source of national purpose, human liberty as the source of national action, the human heart as the source of national compassion, and in the human mind as the source of our invention and our ideas.”

And so it continues. It’s great to be with you all this morning and I’m very interested in hearing what you’ve learned from the people that you serve. Together we have the opportunity, indeed the responsibility, to write a new story – a new chapter, in the ongoing story of this American dream.

Thanks very, very much. (Applause.)



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Guanabara Bay-Chesapeake Bay Partnership

December 5th, 2013

Niteroi, Brazil

Bom dia, good morning. Governor Neves, Vice Governor Grael, thank you for hosting us here in Niteroi.

It's great to be here with all of you today, in this beautiful city, as we learn from one another in taking on the great challenges of the Chesapeake Bay and Guanabara Bay.



There is a Native American proverb that "How we treat one another is reflected in how we treat the Earth."

On my way here I was thinking about the great challenge we face in the Guanabara, and the great challenge in the Chesapeake. The challenge of these Bays really are microcosms of the great

challenge and the great work that we face as human beings.

The size of our population on this Earth has now grown to a point, and grows now at a rate that is outstripping the pace at which our Earth can regenerate the resources we need.

There is more that unites us than divides us. We are united not only by the Chesapeake and the Guanabara, but we're also united by the fact that we've been blessed by tremendous natural resources in Brazil and in the United States. But to whom much has been given, much is also expected. So, our leadership is needed in this world. And there is no place more tangible or more visible to demonstrate that leadership than in the waters of the Guanabara and in the waters of the Chesapeake.

The great Mahatma Gandhi said that the world is my village and my village is the

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world. We might well say the same about our Bays. Because contained within the work that we have to do to clean up our Bays, is not only the microcosm of this great existential challenge of our times, but also an ocean of human potential, an ocean of possibility, an ocean of new technology that allows us to accomplish these meaningful and life-giving connections in ways we never have before.

On the way over I was also reading an article by the AP, and Gelsen Serva was quoted as saying, "The challenge is huge, the effort will be great, the improvement will be gradual." And I might add to that, "The benefits will last for generations and generations."

So let me speak to you as a mayor. Secretary Minc said all these things are interconnected, and mayors—I know there are a lot of mayors here today—have a tremendous opportunity to make the link and make the connections in people's minds between our uses on the land, the way we behave on the land, our patterns of consumption on the land—and how that affects the waters.

When I was Mayor of Baltimore, my take on our Chesapeake Bay program was that we had a lot of Bay programming and too little Bay action. I felt that we needed more Bay action. Because indeed, since all of these things are interconnected, the challenge is connection. And the difference between a dream and a goal is a deadline.

So instead of imagining or wishing that we might have a cleaner Bay 40 years from now, as a mayor I wanted to know what we were doing today that was going to have a benefit right now, that we would be able to measure this year and every year moving forward.

So we applied to this challenge of connection a system of management that quite honestly I borrowed, as any good mayor will. We look for good ideas wherever we can find them. I borrowed a good idea of management called performance measurement. In government we're often very good at telling you what the inputs are and what the budget is—we're not so good at telling you what you get for it, or what the output is, or what the benefit is.

So let me flip through a few slides here. We call our program Statestat. We measure performance across every endeavor of our State government. We do it daily, we do it bi-weekly. We force people on a rotating basis to regularly communicate, coordinate, cooperate—and we are relentless in the pursuit of our goals.

These were the old tenets of city government. For any of you who are mayors, you've heard these. First, if the governor or mayor wants to know, we can find out, but we'll have to pull all our people off of their other jobs and it will take weeks. These are international. Second, we'll get to that as soon as we can, but it will take a few months because our budget was cut last year, implicitly by you, you jerk. (Laughter) This one's my favorite—that's the way we've always done it, or we're already doing that, or we tried that and it didn't work. And then the last old tenet is, we hope the legislature forgets about this one before next year rolls around.

OLD GOVERNMENT TENETS

- ▶ If the Governor really wants to know, we can find out. But we'll have to pull all our people off their jobs. And it will take weeks.
- ▶ We'll get to that as soon as we can, but it will take a few months because our budget was cut last year.
- ▶ That's the way we've always done it / We're already doing that / We tried that and it didn't work.
- ▶ I hope the legislature forgets about this before next year's budget hearing.

So we've replaced them with these tenets, and this is what we use in BayStat. It's timely and accurate information shared by all—not by some, not just by managers, not just by the top branch of managers, but by all, by citizens. Rapid deployment of resources. Effective tactics and strategies. Relentless follow-up. That's how we run our government in the city, that's how we run it when it comes to our Chesapeake Bay program.

STAT TENETS

- ▶ Timely and Accurate intelligence shared by all
- ▶ Rapid deployment of resources
- ▶ Effective tactics and strategies
- ▶ Relentless follow-up and assessment



When I was elected mayor of Baltimore, we had become the most violent and addicted city in America. We had to turn around violent crime, and we began by going right into these “kidneys of death,” where so much of the crime was happening.

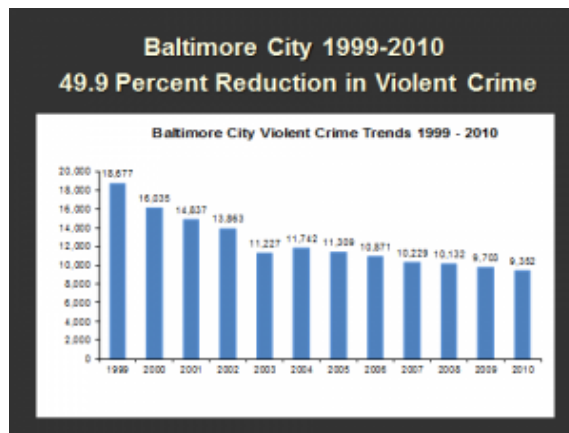




So we deployed our resources not based on the old way of governing, where you would divide them equally between every district. Or worse, where you would send the resources to the district that voted for you in the greatest numbers. Instead, we sent our police officers to these two areas. When President Clinton helped us with 200 additional police officers, we sent them to where they could save the most lives.



And over a period of time, Baltimore was able to achieve one of the most impressive reductions in violent crime in America.

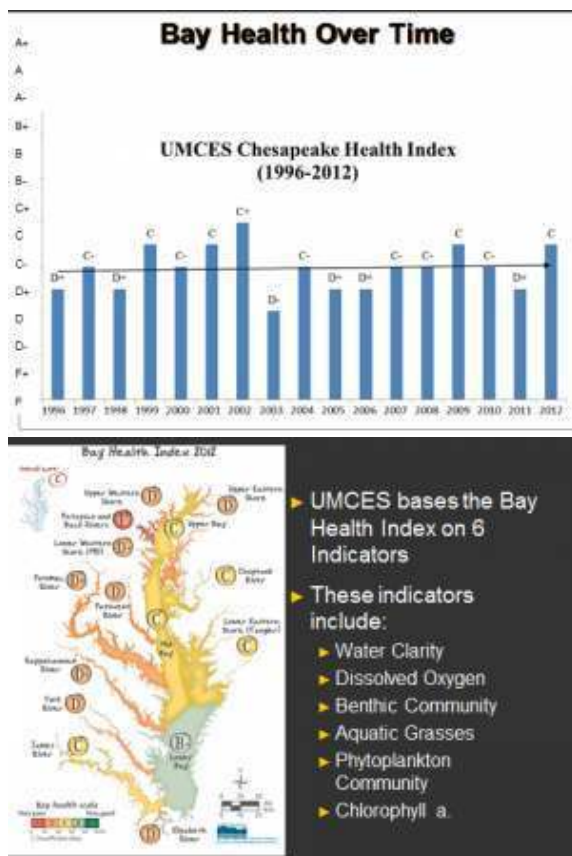


We apply those same principles of CompStat and CitiStat now to BayStat and the clean-up of the Bay. We are not so much trying to suppress crime, as trying to suppress the amount of nitrogen, and the amount of phosphorous, and the amount of sediment that flows into the creeks and the streams and the rivers of the Chesapeake Bay.



Annually, Don Boesch and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science gives our Bay a grade. And as you can see, we have been struggling for decades to keep our Bay from totally collapsing. We have put in a lot of effort, and we are seeing signs that we're getting closer to a healthier Bay tipping point by 2025. As you can see, it has been a struggle. A little bit of uptick of late.

These are the grades that we publish. Every citizen can see them. They're online, and there's always a big press conference about it. The reporters always want to know why aren't we getting an A yet this year? Because, the actions have to happen in order for the progress to start following on.



We also have other systems for monitoring of the waters of the Bay. GIS is our common platform, so that you can go down to see, what is the health of the streams in my town, in my neighborhood, in my city?

Connection—it's all about connection.

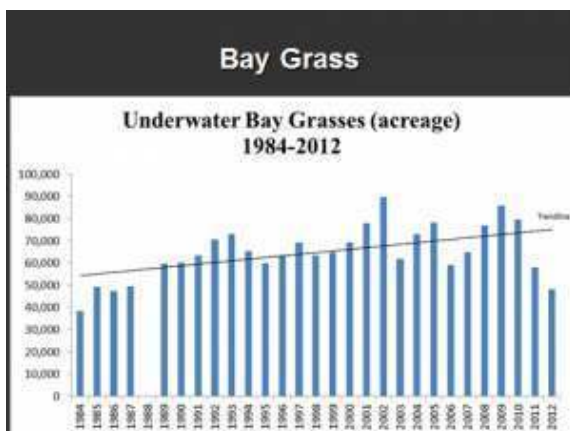


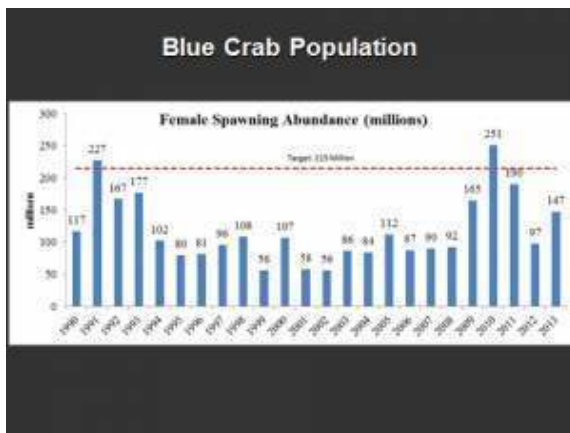


We also use GIS to identify those areas with the greatest amount of impervious surface—that blacktop that creates the stormwater runoff that carries the pollution into the Bay, as we work to mitigate that.

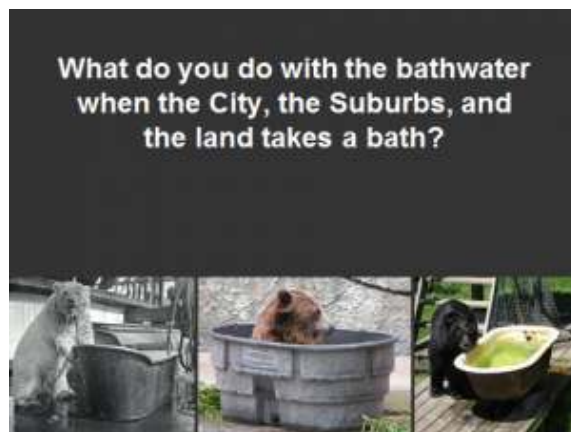


These are some of the indicators that we look at—the Bay grasses, which help us to keep the water clear. Nature's filters. And we're seeing a healthy track in terms of bringing back the bay grasses. We also have a blue crab population that at one point was looking like it was going to totally tank—that population is coming back.





We're always looking for the right metaphor. Try this one: What do you do with the bathwater when the city and the suburbs and the land all take a bath? That's a bear in the tub—the tub might be a metaphor for the Chesapeake Bay or the Guanabara Bay—there's a lot more that that bear does in the tub than simply rinse off his fur. (Laughter)



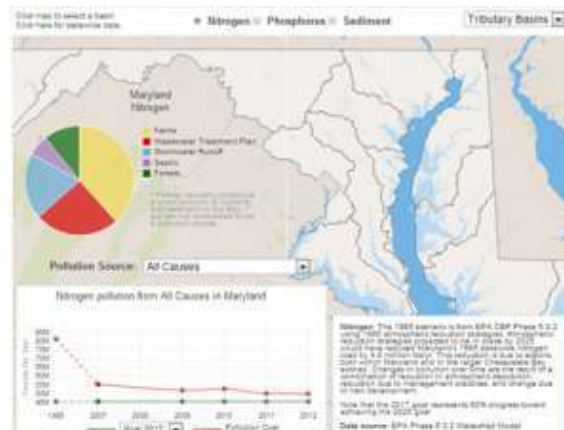
So, the causes.

We've sometimes said that cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay is like trying to move up an escalator that is constantly and ever more rapidly moving down. The things that cause it to move down are increased population, which increases the phosphorous and the nitrogen and the sediment. Our challenge is to do better sewage treatment, better farming practices, better stormwater management, better land use and road policies, so that we can move up faster than the escalator is moving us down.

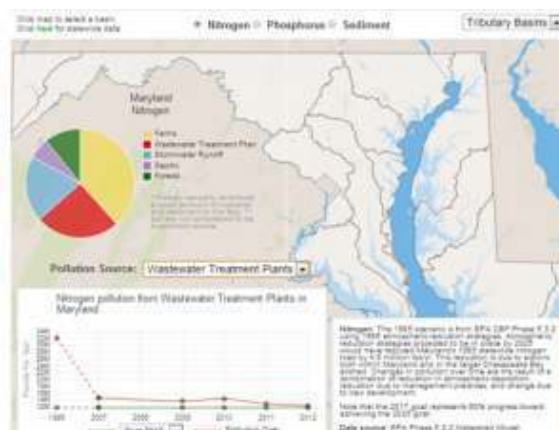


And so this is how we do what we do.

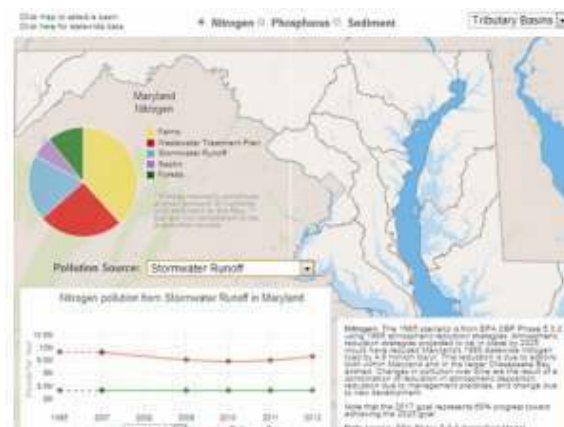
We look at where the nitrogen is coming from, we map our goals, and we see what the sources are for nitrogen pollution in each part of the state. And those actions that allow us to measure whether we're improving over time.



Wastewater treatment plants and the progress they've been able to bring us over time. We set the goals, we drive the actions.

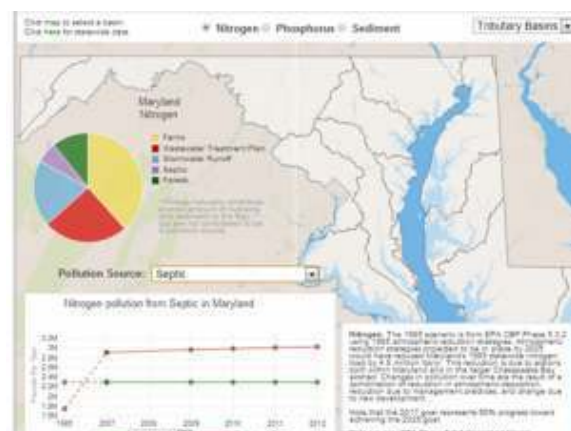


Stormwater runoff was actually one that was moving in the wrong direction. We only recently, within the last year, put a regimen in place in the legislature that allows us to mitigate and remediate some of that mass of blacktop that was washing the pollution into the Bay.



Septic systems. When we weren't investing in the sewer lines, developers started

jumping those sewer lines by putting in huge housing developments, and doing it on septic systems, which consume more land and are designed ultimately to fail. One or two doesn't make a big difference. But if you put 200 in an area, and then multiply that again and again and again, that really get into your water and mess things up.



All of this is posted online, so that every citizen can go and see whether we're improving within their particular watershed—within their “streamshed.” They can also see some of the different challenges. In our urban areas, the big driver is sewage discharge. In some of our farming areas, the big challenge is the farm runoff. You can see the pie charts in a way to actually give the citizens who are in charge of our State the ability to see—as the executives they really are—whether our better decisions are resulting in better results. Whether our better choices are achieving a healthier and better future for our waters, and for our children.

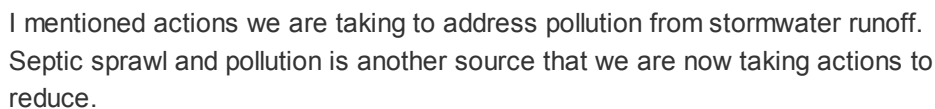
So, you get the point.

Direction, balance, connection.

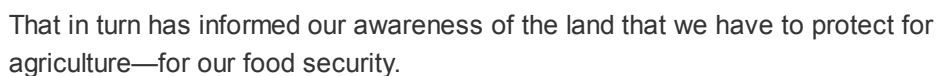
The solutions—best farming practices, we map these as well. In the old days, we used to only map how much it would cost. Now we map how many acres we actually cover. We set a goal, and we measure performance, and the graph tells us whether we are moving in the right direction. The goal is the green, and the red is what's actually being done in terms of cover crops. We're now doing four times as much acreage in cover crops as we were just seven years ago.

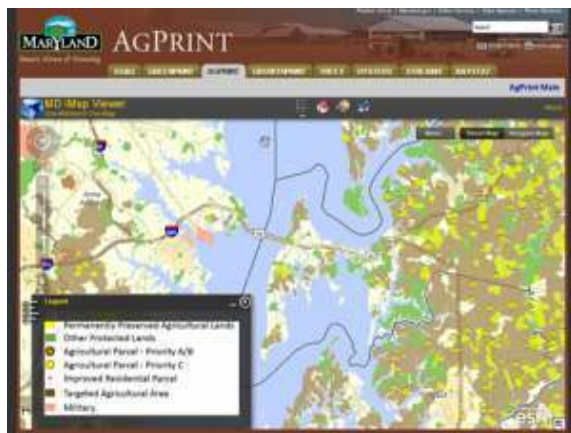


Wastewater treatment plants. Every citizen in our State pays a certain fee every month, that's called the flush fee by some, the flush tax by others. But it helps us to pool our dollars together and do the upgrades. There are some little towns and little



Another thing we've done with GIS, that common platform, is to do an ecological ranking of every piece of land in our State, so we know where that minimal amount of green liver, green kidneys, green lungs are located, so we can protect them. Many of them happen to be the habitat that protects the headwaters of those tributaries that ultimately flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Any citizen can go on this map and see where we've made purchases of land for Open Space—whether it's contiguous, whether it adds to habitat, whether it increases river or stream buffers.





The two of those together—GreenPrint and AgPrint—then tell us where we should be growing, and where we shouldn't be growing. We want to grow where the infrastructure already exists, or where it can be upgraded with an environmental benefit—that also comes from having people located with greater density and less environmental impact.



Finally, we encourage people to participate in this great work through a host of stewardship actions. One of them is planting trees.



Another one is raising oysters, if citizens live on a waterfront property. Those natural filters of the Bay. I saw some of those efforts when I visited the Graef Project, raising the mussels on the buoys out there in the Bay. We look to involve our citizens every day in every way in what we're doing, because ultimately, public servants come and go.

We all have term limits. From the day we were born, we started down the road on those term limits. But the hope is that with deeper awareness and broader understanding, we can sustain that level of effort necessary to move us more quickly up that escalator to a healthier Bay than land use tradition and the forces have been moving us down.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I don't believe that any of us have entirely figured this out. But together we can. And that is why this partnership is important.

How can we ever hope to clean up the atmosphere or to protect the planet from climate change—let alone clean our oceans—if we can't clean up the Chesapeake Bay and the Guanabara Bay?

Stated differently: We Marylanders understand that small things done well make bigger things possible. And so what you're doing here in the Guanabara, what we do in the Chesapeake, we truly believe can be a powerful force in this world; showing all of humanity what's possible. With green design. With deeper awareness. With an understanding of the interconnectedness not only of our lives but the dependency and interdependency we share with the other living systems of this planet.



As a boy, one of my very favorite teachers, in second grade, was Sister Christopher Marie. I went to Catholic school, and I thought this was about the coolest nun that I had ever met. Because Sister Christopher Marie was not only an artist, not only taught us about Jesus and religion—she also was a scientist. She taught us about the water, she taught us about the crayfish, she taught us about

the insects. And she taught us something else that is very important.

She taught us to love the other living systems of this Earth. And she taught us that God loved this Earth so much, that He sent us His only son to redeem our Earth.

As I travelled around Guanabara Bay this morning, on the water, and looked at the beauty of this place, I saw that iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer looking over the hill at us. I could not but help to think that with His arms outstretched He was calling on us to be co-workers with Him, in this work of Redemption.

Because working and wishing are two different things, aren't they? Work can be measured, and wishes cannot. For wishes mankind looks to heaven for falling stars, but for this Great Work of the Guanabara and the Chesapeake, God looks to Earth and to us.

There is only one superpower on this small planet, and it is the power of love. And it is capable of creating the new connections that will give all of our children and grandchildren a new and healthier tomorrow. Thank you all very much. (Applause)



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Tags: [Bay Restoration](#), [baystat](#), [brazil trade mission](#), [Chesapeake Bay](#), [conservation](#), [partnerships](#), [statestat](#)

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Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference

December 12th, 2013

Cambridge, MD

Good evening, it's great to be here with all of you.

But it's been a great honor to be able to work with all of you. And Jeanne

Hitchcock and I are very much looking forward to working with all of you on this year's legislative issues in the coming weeks. This is my last legislative session as your governor. Time flies.

I want to thank Ed Kasemeyer for all of his good work on the budget, and also Nancy Kopp. There are very few states who have maintained a Triple-A bond rating through these tough times and come out intact, and we have. So to both of you and to all the members of the General Assembly, thank you. (Applause)

Last year, we had the best rate of new job creation of any state in our region. It was a rate of new job creation that was about 88 percent higher than our neighbors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. All of you as public servants understand that without jobs there is no progress. And without progress there are no revenues. We were clipping along at a pretty decent pace, then Congress put a bit of a hitch in our get-along by this senseless, self-defeating shutdown.

And so right now, quite honestly, we are building a budget based on projections cast during that very dour time, when a lot of people were quite frankly really nervous about what the future held. Because when you engage in ideology instead of the things that work to move your people forward, bad things happen. And so people



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were buying houses again and people were buying cars again and then everyone pretty much stopped.

So we're preparing a tough budget once again, and hopefully it will get better. I was really encouraged by the announcement the other day in Congress that there was a bipartisan budget deal that at least would go through 2015. If we could just get back to treading water, you know, that would be great. It's a lot better than sinking.

Maryland is such a resilient economy with such hardworking people that I'm very hopeful that by the end of this budget session, hopefully Ed, the other members of the General Assembly and I will have some room to connect things better than they might be at the outset.

And Jeanne Hitchcock is our new Director of Legislative Affairs. Jeanne, many of you know, has been our Secretary of Appointments for many years, since the first day I took over this trust on your behalf. Now, for the final year, she'll be both Secretary of Appointments and Legislative Director. Why didn't we think of doing that earlier? It might have gotten us a few more votes on things.

We're still working out details in terms of the next legislative session and the budget, but the mission remains the same. It's about strengthening and growing the ranks of an ever more diverse and more upwardly mobile middle class. It's about improving public safety and public education in every part of our State. And it's about expanding opportunity. Not just for ourselves in the here and now, but for our children who will come after us.

So tonight is about really honoring the men and women who lead this organization, both the outgoing and the incoming. For those of you who've just been installed, I thank you for stepping up, and I thank you for doing the work that you do on behalf of the people of our State. Anybody can govern in easy times. But you all govern in really challenging and difficult times. Polarized times. Cynical times. Times when many of us thought there would never be a bottom to this recession.

As a State we have now passed the milestone—not the endzone—of having recovered 100 percent of the jobs we lost in the recession. But we still have a lot of work ahead of us. Because of the leadership we now have installed, we're going to be able to continue that work, and we're going to be able to continue it together.

Tom Duncan has spent most of his career in law enforcement. He's been a tremendous advocate of our stepped up ability to communicate across all of our law enforcement agencies, first responders, emergency management. Tom, I look forward to working with you on forwarding that effort for interoperable communications throughout our State, that common platform for public safety that more and more jurisdictions and counties are availing themselves of. That's



lasting and legacy work, so I look forward to continuing that with you.



For those outgoing officers, I thank you for your leadership over this last year.

Rick Pollitt. I'll tell his kids: I've never worked with a finer man in public service than your dad. He is a bridge builder, he is a man of integrity, he's fearless and he looks for the good in other people. All the time. Even when they're shouting at him in public meetings. He's always looking for the goodness in other people. (Applause) And that's the reason your dad has been so effective as the president of this organization and why he's such a great leader for your county.

Most importantly, I want to thank all of you who are here for your leadership over these last seven years. These have been times when no choices were easy. Nobody stood up and applauded for any of the individual decisions that we made together—whether it was the State budget or whether it was in your own county budgets. But together all of you, all of us, have had the fortitude to do what was right for our people even if the individual decisions were tough, we knew that our trust involved making the best decisions in our judgment in order to achieve better results for our people. And for that reason—not by accident, not by chance, but because of your choices—never before but for five years in a row we have the number one schools in America. (Applause)

And because of those choices, even our kids from our lowest income families in Maryland have made even greater leaps in achievement than in any other state. We've done more than any other state to hold down the cost of college tuition, so that more families can afford to send their kids to college.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce—hardly a mouthpiece for the O'Malley-Brown Administration—has named our State the #1 state in America now two years in a row for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Your police departments and your sheriff's departments, together with the State Police and municipal agencies across our State, have saved countless lives by driving violent crime down to 30-year lows—even in the face of tough economic times.

And most importantly, your State was named one of the top three states in the nation for upward economic mobility at a time when people in states all across the United States are wondering if perhaps those days of a stronger and growing middle class are behind us instead of ahead of us.

I have had the opportunity to travel all over our State. And because of the goodness of the people that you and I have the honor to serve, I'm very confident that our best days are ahead of us. Maryland didn't go down that primrose path of ideology. We continued to do the things that work—to better educate our children, to accelerate the innovation curve, to rebuild our infrastructure. Not only the roads and the bridges, but also the water and wastewater infrastructure, the cyber infrastructure that's connecting small businesses in towns all across our State to this new economy.

I recently came back from a little trade mission to Brazil and El Salvador. I was sharing with some folks on the way in that one of the companies that accompanied

us—there were 90 of them on this delegation that paid their own way—and one of them was Cambridge International, which employs about 250 people right here in Cambridge. They do wire mesh conveyor belts and other sorts of things that are incorporated into the architecture of buildings. And I when was talking to one of the people in the sort of chamber of commerce in Brazil, I mentioned that this company was here and was doing good work in Brazil. And he said, “I’m a builder, and I use Cambridge International in the things that I do.”

There are big markets all around this world—China, India, Brazil and other places—and if we become more engaged rather than less, there are tremendous opportunities in terms of jobs that can come back to our State. I know Ike Leggett just took 90 people to China, opening up markets there. There’s a big world out there. Brace Pharmaceuticals, DK Diagnostics, they were also on our trip. It’s all about creating jobs and expanding opportunity.

And that’s what we have been doing, as a people and as a State. The American Dream is still within reach here in our State. We believe our best days are ahead of us. We believe that when moms and dads work hard, that they should be able to expect to give their kids a better way of life.

I wanted to share with you a piece that I’ve fallen back on several times over these last few years. I guess, I confess to you a bit of nostalgia as I join you here the last time in anticipation of this legislative session. I just wanted to share this with you because I think it speaks to the goodness that each of you carries into public service.

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

My friends, you and I are very, very lucky people, because we serve such a good people. We're all in this together. Each of us is needed. There is no such thing in our State as a spare American.

So let's do everything we can to move our State forward—to create more jobs, to strengthen and grow our middle class. Forward to an ever more competitive Maryland—a Maryland that is worthy of our children's love and trust.

Thank you all for your good work.



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CSX Oyster Shell Partnership

December 13th, 2013



Baltimore, MD

As prepared for delivery

Thank you very much, Joe. And thank you all very much for being here on this balmy day. It's wonderful to be joined by so many who are really committed to seeing the health of our Chesapeake Bay restored. Bob Perciasepe, David O'Neil, thank you for being here. Michael Ward, thank you very much for your partnership on this exciting project.

So, that's a lot of shells. This is just the first of more than 20 loads of shell that will be used to restore the reef structures in the Harris Creek and Little Choptank oyster sanctuaries. 112,500 tons of fossilized shell are going to make their way from Florida to Baltimore, thanks to our partners at CSX. Just for some perspective, that would cover 80 football fields a foot deep in shells.

This is by far the largest oyster reef restoration effort ever attempted in Maryland—and it's just one of the things we're doing to protect this species that is vital to the health and economy of our State.

Oyster Restoration Plan

We've made progress on every step of our 10-point plan for Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development.

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We have:

- Increased Maryland's network of oyster sanctuaries,...
- Maintained 76 percent of the Bay's remaining quality oyster habitat,...
- Added areas open to leasing for oyster aquaculture,...
- Streamlined the permitting process and established a \$2.7 million financial assistance fund for aquaculture,...
- And we've issued 85 new shellfish aquaculture leases on nearly 1,600 acres. Plus, we have another 66 lease applications in the pipeline.

Just this year, we've produced and planted 1.25 billion oysters—the largest production for any oyster hatchery in the nation.

But it's not just our State agencies that are doing the life-giving work of bringing back the oysters. As many as 5,000 individuals—together as families and neighbors and communities—are helping to grow oysters in cages along 30 rivers and creeks. This Marylanders Grow Oysters initiative started in 2008 with just 170 growers working on 1 tributary.

And we're working to protect these gains.

We're using the cameras and radar units of the Maritime Law Enforcement Information Network to track potential poachers. We've increased monitoring and penalties, and set designated court dates in more than a dozen counties. We're also working with the Maryland State Police to monitor our sanctuaries by air, in addition to the boat patrols by our Natural Resources Police.

Dunloggin Middle School Oyster Project

But this recovery does not stop with us. Our task is also to create the deeper connections and deeper understanding in the next generation, so that they can continue this healing.



That's why I have with me today a couple of my friends from Dunloggin Middle School in Ellicott City. I visited them in October to see how they're raising oyster spat to release into the Bay. Heidi Li and Claudia Pilcher, please come on up and tell us a little bit about the project.



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